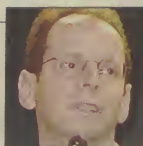


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BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 34 • No. 21 • 20 May 2004

Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

John Kerry conversation with LGBTs clears up very little

by Zak Szymanski

A last-minute conference call and media briefing was hosted on Friday, May 14 by senior advisers to Senator John Kerry's presidential campaign and national LGBT leaders, all of whom had just come from a meeting with the Massachusetts senator and presumptive Democratic nominee to discuss issues of importance to the gay community.



John Kerry

At the one-hour meeting, according to a statement from his office, Kerry "expressed his appreciation to the LGBT community for its support throughout his public service career and pledged to fight for an America that embraced inclusion and equality."

Friday's conference call included Kerry's LGBT advisers Jeffrey Trammell and Mary Breslauer as well as a couple of LGBT advocates who attended the meeting. But while the call centered around the candidate who, according to many LGBT politicians and leaders, is the best choice for gay rights, the briefing amounted to little more than hearsay, featuring advocates who described their meeting with the Democratic candidate as a room full of "fired up" people in the company of a politician with a "virtually perfect" record on gay issues.

Conference call participants further boasted of Kerry's historic votes against the Defense of Marriage Act and "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" in the 1990s, and discussed Kerry's vision for America, a vision which, according to those who have spoken with him, is drastically different from the status quo.

"It was a great conversation," said Trammell about the meeting with Kerry. "The senator discussed his concerns, and the direction he wants to take the country. The bottom line is he wants to take country in a very different direction; he is very concerned about this administration's policies which divide us, the judicial nominations, and the failure to fight HIV/AIDS."

All those present for the conference call agreed that they differed from Kerry on the gay marriage issue; the senator has come out opposed to

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Weddings a reality in Mass.

by Ed Walsh



David Wilson and Robert Compton, one of the plaintiff couples in the Massachusetts lawsuit, were married Monday, May 17 by the Reverend Kim Crawford Harvey.

It was one of the images that would encapsulate the spirit of the day in Massachusetts for Molly McKay, the associate executive director of Equality California. On May 17, the first day of legal same-sex marriage in the state – a first for any state in America – a protester outside Boston City Hall held up a sign denouncing "homo sex" as a sin.

A man, who looked like a stereotypical cop, big and burly, approached the protester. But it wasn't to show support. "My son is gay," the man gruffly retorted. "It's all right. This is a free country. I support my son and what you are doing is wrong."

McKay was among a group of California gay marriage activists that made the pilgrimage to Massachusetts to cheer on marriage applicants and to rally support for same-sex marriage rights beyond the Bay State. Her spouse, Davina Kotulski, the author of *Why You Should Give a Damn About Gay Marriage*, joined her. The couple married in San Francisco on February 12, but the validity of the San Francisco marriages remains in legal limbo as the case winds its way through

page 14 ►

HIV no barrier to love for these couples

Exploring the serodivide

by Matthew S. Bajko

Love certainly can be blind to many things, and HIV is no exception.

As a growing number of both HIV-positive and -negative men opt to serosort – dating or having sex with someone of the same HIV status – others refuse to box themselves into a "negative" or "positive" corner. They are forming relationships regardless of HIV status.

Referred to by health researchers as serodiscordant couples, these partnerships are testaments to the fact that HIV need not be a barrier to love.

"I learned I am not willing to – I guess what I used to say is – I am not willing to let a virus tell me who I can fall in love with. I am not willing to limit myself in that way," said Jay Harcourt, 34, a doctoral student in public health at the University of California at Berkeley. "I learned that, personally for me, I couldn't make that rule because I found someone who was of a different serostatus from me who I fell in love with."

Harcourt, who is negative, has been with his domestic partner, Kevin Roe, for four years now. Roe, 42, the community organizer at Magnet, the gay men's health center in the Castro, has been positive for more than 20 years.

When he met Roe, Harcourt said contracting the HIV virus was not a concern. "I was more worried emotionally. My tendency toward caretaking was the only thing that made me concerned about getting involved in a relationship like this."

But he determined his fear of being overly nurturing should not be an obstacle to



Jay Harcourt, left, and Kevin Roe refuse to be serodivided.

falling in love.

"First of all he won't let that happen," said Harcourt. "Second of all if it was a friend of mine who got sick and who was positive, I would have that tendency anyway. What's different between a friend and a partner? I was less worried about transmission."

Serosorting to Roe is more a reaction to failed HIV prevention methods over the years than anything else. He said he is discouraged to see more men determine their lovers by serostatus.

"I think for either positive or negative guys, I understand it but I think they are cutting themselves off from a range of human experiences," said Roe. "There is a lot more to gay men than their HIV status. It is sad we only concentrate on HIV status and not on affection, love, intelligence."

The truth is, Roe said, "You can easily be in a serodiscordant relationship or have serodiscordant hookups without necessarily contracting HIV. Believe it or not, HIV-positive men do have relationships with HIV-

negative men and we have been for the last 20 years."

As for serosorting, Roe said it "is basically a crapshoot unless you know the person 100 percent, unless you are serosorted with your Siamese twin."

Still, he acknowledges that for a negative man to be with someone who is positive it is not easy. It doesn't help, he said, that gay men only hear about the danger of being with someone who is positive, not how to have a safe, loving relationship with a person living with HIV.

"It took a lot of courage on Jay's part to be in a relationship with an HIV-positive man," said Roe. "There is a new cohort of gay men who really don't have any experience with

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New Year's Resolutions Realized

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to registerCazares takes stand
in Araujo murder trial

by Zak Szymanski

Defense Attorney Tony Serra resumed his tactics once again in the Hayward Hall of Justice on Tuesday, May 18, painting victim Gwen Araujo as a deceitful betrayer who tricked the three men accused of her murder into homosexual sex.

Serra also spent time trying to discredit prosecution witnesses and reveal the human side of his client Jason Cazares, who along with co-defendants Jose Merel and Michael Magidson faces first-degree murder charges with a hate crime enhancement for the October 2002 killing of Araujo. A fourth suspect, Jaron Nabors, pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter in exchange for testimony against his friends and an 11-year prison sentence.

Araujo, 17, was a transgender teenager who was born male but lived as a woman. Her brief friendship with the three defendants reportedly involved sexual contact with Magidson and Merel.

On the night Araujo was killed at Merel's Newark home, all sides in the case agree, her body was groped to determine her genitals, and when her biological sex was revealed, tempers flared. According to defense attorneys, Araujo took away the defendants' "right to be heterosexual," and panic set in, causing a "heat of passion" crime.

According to prosecution witness Nabors, however, Araujo's murder took place over the course of a few hours, with breaks in between where she sat conscious and bleeding on Merel's couch. Araujo, he said, was punched, kicked,



Defendant Jason Cazares

hit over the head with a shovel, and strangled. An autopsy report confirms that the cause of her death was asphyxiation with related head trauma.

On Tuesday, May 18, after a two-week recess, the trial resumed, and Serra called Nabors's former girlfriend Dolores "D.D." Ojeda to the stand, grilling her about her honesty in relation to Nabors's role in Araujo's death.

Serra has told reporters that his case relies on discrediting Nabors, and Ojeda was the recipient of Nabors's intercepted letter from jail, which described the killing from his perspective and was used as a bargaining tool during original investigations. Serra has said that Nabors deliberately wrote that letter hoping it would be intercepted and submitted into evidence to get him off the hook.

Most of Ojeda's answers on the stand were vague, and she did "not recall" details about what and

when Nabors first told her about events related to the killing. Regardless of whether her memory was helpful to Serra, one part of her previous interviews was: her past statements to police about Araujo as "the guy who dressed like a girl," a term that Serra repeated again and again for the jury before Ojeda was dismissed.

Yet for all of Serra's insistence that Araujo's killing was justifiable, he has simultaneously distanced his own client from the crime, emphasizing that Cazares did not take part in the killing and instead merely helped bury the body out of loyalty to his friends.

Serra called Cazares, 24, to testify on his own behalf on Tuesday, and jurors were treated to his condensed life history, including his stable work history, his experience as a Little League coach, and loyalty to his family. Cazares spoke softly, told the court he was "very shy," and was repeatedly instructed by Serra to raise his voice.

On the stand, Cazares described Araujo as a loud, attention-seeking flirt, in sharp contrast, he said, to how he conducted himself. Nabors, he said was "a fake," disrespecting African Americans by adopting "black English" and always trying to one-up his buddies.

After walking Cazares through his upbringing, work experience, and skill at playing dominoes, Serra asked his client if he considered his close friendship to Merel and Magidson to be akin to "The Three Musketeers."

Cazares lowered his eyes and bashfully grinned, "More like the Three Stooges."

Serra and several members of the jury chuckled along with him. ▽

B.A.R. names new publisher, legal counsel

by Cynthia Laird



New publisher Thomas E. Horn

Thomas E. Horn, longtime legal counsel to the *Bay Area Reporter*, has been named publisher of the paper by the board of directors of Benro Enterprises Inc., the newspaper's parent company. The announcement was made Friday, May 14.

Horn, 57, succeeds the late Bob Ross, founder and publisher from 1971 until his death on December 10, 2003.

"The B.A.R. has a long and

proud tradition of providing original content and information to the LGBT community," Horn said. "For 30 years, Bob Ross worked to develop a team of writers, editors, and administrators of the highest competence. My objective is to maintain that level of excellence."

Horn also said that the B.A.R. is actively working on developing a Web site, which should be ready to go live next month (www.ebar.com).

Horn will be receiving a salary, but declined to disclose the page 12 ►

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Leal tapped for PUC

by Zak Szymanski

One of the LGBT community's most respected public officials has been chosen by Mayor Gavin Newsom to lead the San Francisco's Public Utilities Commission, the body responsible for supplying water to over 2 million customers in the city and other Bay Area counties.

Openly lesbian city Treasurer Susan Leal will leave her current office with plans to take charge of the PUC, an agency whose biggest task right now is implementing a multibillion dollar upgrade project to the regional Hetch Hetchy water system. She will go gradually from the treasurer's office, she said, to ensure a smooth transi-



Susan Leal

tion for her replacement there. Leal must also be approved by the Public Utilities Commission —

whose members are selected by the mayor and confirmed by the Board of Supervisors — before her new title is official. All of the current members were appointed before Newsom became mayor, including Adam Werbach, whom Supervisor Chris Daly appointed last year during his infamous stint as acting mayor for a day.

Leal, 54, ran unsuccessfully for mayor last year, but went on to endorse Newsom during the runoff campaign.

Newsom will appoint Leal's successor for the remainder of her term as treasurer.

"It's a new challenge for me but it's also a really big challenge for the city, and one that's really vital for the city," Leal told the *Bay Area*

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Marriage bill put off till Dec.

by Cynthia Laird

Assemblyman Mark Leno said Tuesday, May 18 that his same-sex marriage bill will not move to the floor for a vote this session, but the San Francisco Democrat vows to re-introduce it in December and this time, he says he has the backing of Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez (D-Los Angeles).

Leno was facing an uphill fight for his Marriage License Non-Discrimination Act (AB1967) from the moment he introduced it on

February 12 — the same day that San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom directed city officials to issue marriage licenses to gay and lesbian couples. Last month AB1967 cleared its first hurdle when it was passed out of the Assembly Judiciary Committee on an 8-3 vote. However, it became clear to Leno and marriage equality advocates that the bill did not have the 41 votes necessary to move it out of the Assembly.

Leno told the *Bay Area Reporter* earlier this month that he would not "risk the importance of the cause by taking the bill to the

floor to lose." He reiterated that sentiment Tuesday.

"I can't be certain there are 41 votes on the floor," he said.

But Leno refused to characterize this latest development as meaning the bill is "dead."

"This bill is more than alive and well," Leno said this week. "The speaker [Nunez] will be joining in as a joint author in a new bill I will introduce on December 6, the first day of the session."

Leno said that adding Nunez's political clout to the measure

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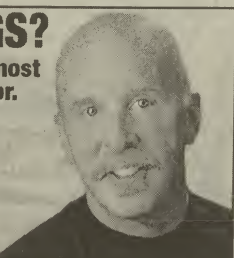
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News in brief

compiled by Cynthia Laird

AIDS grove events

The National AIDS Memorial Grove will present two events this weekend. On Friday, May 21, the grove will hold its spring fundraiser, "Groove in the Grove," from 7-11 p.m. The event will be held under a tent in the meadow at the seven-acre memorial in Golden Gate Park.

Roberta Gonzales, of CBS 5, will emcee the evening's activities, which include a silent auction and performances by Lori Carsillo and The Nick Rossi Set. Talented singer, songwriter, and pianist Spencer Day is the featured performer. Tickets are \$150 per person and can be ordered by calling (415) 750-8340.

On Saturday, May 22, Groove in the Grove continues with a free public concert from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. featuring Jacqui Naylor and other top Bay Area performers, providing a mix of jazz, pop, and R&B sounds. Local AIDS service organizations will have representatives on hand with information about their programs and volunteer needs.

Saturday will also mark the public unveiling of the grove's first permanent educational feature—an AIDS timeline recently installed at the new Belvedere Overlook.

For more information on the grove, including directions, visit www.aidsmemorial.org.

TG picnic Sunday

Lacking central organization but not creativity, this year's Tranny

Picnic will take place Sunday, May 23 at San Francisco's Dolores Park (at 19th Street side) beginning at noon. All genders, ages, hormone levels, and anatomies are enthusiastically invited, organizers said. The picnic is whatever participants make it, so people should bring food, drinks, and lollipops to share.

Benefit for dog rescue group

Rocket Dog Rescue, the grassroots organization that helps save animals from euthanasia at overcrowded shelters, is teaming up with Whole Foods Market for a dog wash benefit Sunday, May 23, from noon-5 p.m., in the upper parking lot at Whole Foods, 1765 California Street, at Franklin, in San Francisco. The store is donating the space and facilities and the store's team members will shampoo, rinse, and towel dry the dogs. Cost for each dog wash is \$10 for short-haired dogs, and \$15 for long-haired dogs.

Rocket Dog Rescue offers safe temporary homes for dogs in shelters and also helps find homes for animals whose owners can no longer take care of them. For more information about the organization, visit www.rocketdogrescue.org or call (415) 642-4786.

API benefit

The Asian and Pacific Islander Wellness Center will host its fundraising event entitled "Mix ... where creativity and community meet" Wednesday, May 26 from 7-10 p.m. at the Forum at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mis-

sion Street (at 3rd) in San Francisco. Tickets are \$75 per person. Mix will feature hors d'oeuvres from some of the area's fine restaurants, a fusion fashion show by Silk Road, dancing courtesy of DJ St. John of WILD 94.9 FM, and live and silent auctions. There will also be an awards program, recognizing AsiaSF restaurant, Donald Masuda, the Evelyn and Walter Haas Jr. Fund, and KOIT radio station.

Money raised will benefit API's multilingual services for Asians and Pacific Islanders living with HIV/AIDS. For event information, call Jimmy Ho at (415) 292-3420, ext. 313 or visit www.api-wellness.org.

LHRC monthly salon

The Lesbian Health Research Center's monthly lesbian health salon will be held Wednesday, May 26 from 7-8:30 p.m. in San Francisco. This month's topic is "How Homophobia Impacts the Health of the LGBT Community" and the featured speaker will be Dr. Kate O'Hanlan. Jan Corlett, Ph.D. and Suzanne Dibble will also speak on the topic.

LHRC is affiliated with the University of California, San Francisco. The salon series is sponsored by LHRC's Community Leadership Circle. Interested people should RSVP to Betty Sullivan at betty@sullcomm.com for location and directions.

Power dynamics workshop

The National Center for Lesbian Rights and Equally Empow-
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Governor set to fully fund ADAP

by Matthew S. Bajko

AIDS activists and gay lawmakers last week hailed Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's decision to fully fund the state's AIDS Drug Assistance Program. The governor made his announcement last Thursday, May 13 when he unveiled his revised May budget.

The governor's revised proposal for ADAP will fund the program at \$234.2 million for the 2004-05 fiscal year. If adopted by the Legislature, ADAP will not have to institute a life-endangering waiting list and can fully accommodate the projected growth for the program.

The move came as a surprise to many people with HIV and AIDS, as well as advocates, who had staged street protests in March fearing ADAP would be targeted as the governor looked to tackle the state's budget deficit. In his original budget plan released in January, Schwarzenegger had proposed to cap enrollment in the program at its current level of 23,900 individuals. Instead, he proposed adding \$27 million into the program.

"People living with HIV and AIDS have mobilized in an unprecedented way to urge the governor to spare this life and death program," said Dana Van Gorder, director of state and local affairs



Assemblyman John Laird

for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. "We are very pleased that the governor was willing to reconsider his position and that the administration worked with the community to find common ground on this critical issue. Ultimately, money spent to prevent or delay the onset of AIDS saves the state a substantial amount of money in acute health care costs. This is both a humane and cost-effective program and the governor deserves credit for recognizing that."

Openly gay Assemblyman John Laird (D-Santa Cruz), who

had been advocating for full funding of the program since Schwarzenegger proposed the enrollment cap, praised the governor's budget reversal.

"Through effective advocacy and strong leadership in the budget subcommittee for health and human services, we have created a change of heart with the governor," Laird said in a statement released last week. "This proposal shows that the governor understands the budget process is much more than number crunching and analyzing line items in the budget. Access to lifesaving medications is imperative for low-income people living with HIV/AIDS."

As a freshman member in 2003, Laird championed last year's effort to fully fund the ADAP program. Through his urging, the Legislature rejected former Governor Gray Davis's proposal to implement a copay program for ADAP participants and back-fill, using general fund dollars, the gap created by increased need.

ADAP is authorized at the federal level under the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resource Emergency Act. The program provides HIV-related prescription drugs to underinsured and uninsured individuals living with HIV/AIDS. California's ADAP program receives federal matching dollars to help distribute these much-needed drugs to patients. ▼

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OPEN FORUM

Congratulations

We heartily congratulate gay and lesbian couples in Massachusetts who, as of Monday, are now legally able to wed in the Bay State. The court fight was a long one; and with the threat of a state constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage, the battle is not over yet. But for now, the scenes of joyful same-sex couples tying the knot are reminiscent of our own wedding procession that took place in February and March. The San Francisco marriages, however, are not guaranteed, as the state Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in the case on Tuesday. Will the justices uphold the more than 4,000 marriages that took place? We hope so.

For at least the next two and a half years, however, gay marriage will be legal in Massachusetts — but only for state residents. That's because it will take until 2006 for any constitutional amendment to be approved by voters. More court cases are also expected, many challenging a 1913 law that does not allow nonresidents to marry in Massachusetts if the marriage would be void in their home state. Even so, some out of state couples are traveling to Massachusetts this week and getting married anyway, potentially placing themselves in legal limbo, as those who married in San Francisco did. The strong desire to wed among some couples far outweighs the future legal pitfalls.

But unlike presumed Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry, we're excited about the nuptials. Kerry, the junior senator from Massachusetts, is in a bind as he tries to walk both sides of the same-sex marriage aisle. He is opposed to gay marriage, but favors civil unions with all of the rights and responsibilities inherent in marriage. He has also given conditional support to the proposed Massachusetts constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage, yet is opposed to the Federal Marriage Amendment that President Bush is supporting strongly. Kerry's critics say he is prone to "flip-flop" on the issues; and regarding same-sex mar-

riage, he's definitely trying as hard as he can not even to mention the subject. In fact, he couldn't even bring himself to congratulate the Massachusetts couples when asked what he would say to them at a news conference last Friday. Even Mormon Governor Mitt Romney, a Republican, was diplomatic in remarks over the weekend, telling reporters that Monday should be a day for the couples.

One thing that Kerry seems to miss in the same-sex marriages in Massachusetts is what a happy, uplifting story they are for so many. Not only for the couples themselves, but also in many cases these are emotional events for family members and friends, who are equally supportive and cheer on the couples after they've wed.

Coincidentally, Monday was also the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* decision that banned racial segregation in public schools. "We conclude that, in the field of public education, the doctrine of 'separate but equal' has no place. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal," Justice Earl Warren wrote at the time. Kerry was in Topeka, Kansas on Monday — as was President Bush — to commemorate the court decision. Neither mentioned the Massachusetts same-sex weddings; but the president did reiterate his call for a constitutional amendment banning such nuptials, showing once again that "separate but equal" still overrules equal rights for gays. ▼



Editorial



Sex, drugs: Thoughts on PNP

by Jeff Bendeigid

There seems to be quite a furor going on over what some consenting adults are doing in the privacy of their own homes and in their sexual expression. I've heard for years about the speed/crystal epidemic. I've known many men in the rooms of recovery whose lives were pretty much shit-holed by their addiction; and most of the gay ones were using speed. Now we are getting a fresh batch of new and improved judgment, oppression, hostility, and blame that has the feel of "witch-hunting" to it. The men who use speed in their consensual sex do not frighten me, it is the butter-wouldn't-melt-in-their-mouths gay fascists doing the judging that scare and depress me.

I have chosen to change my life, my behaviors. What I've learned is this: You can't tell anybody anything they don't already know. For many years everyone around me told me I had a drug problem, a money problem, a crime problem. I didn't have a drug, money, or criminal problem. I had a problem with living. Until I was ready to "know" it, I spent a lot of time on dope, sick, incarcerated, institutionalized, and having what seems now to be a shadow life. I had never learned how to live effectively; I was empty inside and my culture had taught me that money, a big dick, power, gambling, food, or drugs were just the things I needed.

America is the capital of drug usage — legal, prescribed, and illegal. No other people rely so heavily on an external substance or behavior to "fix" them.

Where do I stand on drugs? Legalize all of them and tax the shit out of them. We'll put the CIA out of business and deliver a bullet to the brain of the uber-government. Drugs won't be so attractive if they are legal. A lot of us started with drugs because they were counterculture, rebellious, and radical. They promised us something we did not have. And, they usually, for most people, delivered on their promise for quite a while.

How and when did I change from a cucumber to a pickle? I don't know, but I know I did. I'll never be a cucumber again. So, the debate is easy for me. I know what I do with drugs, they are a symptom of a greater problem, and of an enormous unhappiness I was bred to, not the problem itself. I am the problem with me.

Now I see these ads in the B.A.R. and elsewhere, which sound damn close to having a town meeting to employ vigilante justice against those fuckers who use drugs: "They're messing up our pretty little Castro." "They're giving gay men a bad name." "Hang 'em high!"

Here's my bottom line on the whole issue of the PNP [party and play] phenomenon. If you think this is something new, you're an idiot. People have been using substances of various kinds to change the way they feel for as long as there have been people. Here are my three hard-won life rules; they help me avoid conflict within my own soul and outside in the big old world.

- 1) What you do is none of my business.
- 2) What I do is none of yours.
- 3) That we harm none, we can do what we will.

If you don't approve of PNP action, don't do it.

It's pretty goddamn obvious who is tweaking and who is not tweaking on craigslist, in a bar, or wherever men congregate to look for the same thing — some warmth inside. Here's something a friend emailed me about PNP sex:

"Have you ever played with someone who's been partying? Here's what I've found — they can only focus on your penis long enough to get you hard, then they need to: a-use the restroom; b-take a shower; c-check voicemail; d-look for the poppers; e-smoke a cigarette; f-rest; g-find their cockring; h-clean; i-tell you a story; j-get a drink;

k-call a friend to see if he wants to join. Seriously, trying to fuck a partyer is like trying to keep a puppy focused on you in a dog park filled with other puppies."

For me, the term "party and play" is a huge misnomer; it is a behavior that may keep its promises today but seems to ultimately give that methamphetamine gift that goes on giving all too often in habitual users: amphetamine psychosis, bad teeth, HIV, and a whole host of other nasty possibilities including my personal favorite, crystal-dick.

I found that being high during sex made my PNP buddies and I into two-dimensional objects. We became only fleshy racks to which were affixed the only real things of substance: our genitals! My dick, your dick, our hot-wired nips, ass, and so on were the only things I could focus on, the only things that existed and were real for both or all the people involved.

That's just my opinion and my experience. I never did get it, the whole speed and sex thing. It sounds like one of the rings of Hell to me — to be maddened by my sex drive, overwhelmingly horny, so that all my world could hold was dick, dick, more dick and the constant craving and hunting for more dick; getting and using and finding ways and means to get and use more dick. The only thing that approached "real" was having sex, but, I couldn't get a hard-on and it was quite a project to achieve orgasm, sometimes, the work of days. And then what? I had ingested a substance that doesn't wear off for a long damn time. This great "high" doesn't allow me to be anything other than spun, and you can forget about food, water, and sleep anytime soon. Eventually I end up using Neosporin for lube. I'm sorry, I've done it and I still don't get it. It was fun a few times, my body and sex felt so good and the orgasm was amazing, okay, but it wasn't what I wanted for myself as a primary identity or pursuit. ▼

Guest Opinion

LETTERS

Cause and effect

I want to address the two issues in your Open Forum (May 6). First, I'm not crying too hard about the apparently failed Marriage License Non-Discrimination Act ["Equality on hold," Editorial]. Full civil marriage is the goal but this will take time to achieve. We had the rage of marriages in San Francisco earlier this year, and hopefully a court will uphold them. Celebrate that. Furthermore, what is so wrong about civil unions for now? Isn't that a step in the right direction? Quit picking on that. When we and society are ready, we will have marriage also.

Secondly, when will we, as a community, start learning life's lessons the easy way? We can honor our friends with HIV, STD, cancer, etc. more effectively by avoiding their mistakes ["The Savage truth," Guest Opinion]. We say we are proud of how well we take care of our sick, and that is okay, but we can do better. I cannot fully respect young people in our community who do stupid things. They are not the wave of the future. By choice, neither HIV nor cigarettes know me. As a chiropractor, my professional philosophy argues that avoidance of risky behavior should become fashionable and in vogue – "PC"; it seems Dan Savage agrees.

A final thought: would we take better care of ourselves if the rewards were less expense on medication, better health, more social tolerance, and ultimately full gay rights and marriage? I believe this is cause and effect, and part of the road to equality.

David West, DC
San Jose, California

An open letter to cute, hunky guys

While getting lunch in the Crepine on Church Street, I walked past someone wearing a T-shirt. I thought the inscription said "American Celery." That's strange. So I did a double take and saw that it actually said "American Cycling." The eyes and mind play funny tricks sometimes, and I was amused. But the guy wearing the shirt definitely was not amused because he scowled with a piercing look of total disgust.

I had no intention of making anyone feel uncomfortable, so I politely told him what I thought I read the first time, and that's why I looked again. He avoided looking at me and just glared to the space beside me with the cold, terrified look of someone who just stepped into a pile of vomit, barefoot. The poor thing could not offend his eyesight with an older man making a casual, possibly funny, passing remark. He never smiled or said "that's fine." He just remained motionless with his icy stare, curling the edges of his lips downward like he was being tortured in an Iraqi prison. Not a word of reply.

What a shame when beautiful, young guys like the wearer of this T-shirt have to share the planet with others of us who are less than perfect. If he is cursed, someday he might live to an age older than his 20s, unless he dies first from an incurable case of attitude poisoning.

Most human beings smile at other people and maybe engage in light banter while standing in line at the post office or waiting for the bus. Most people do, but not if you belong to that select group of very special young gay men who are too precious to speak to, and they are pained to look at the 99.9 percent of ordinary folk who dare to blight their universe.

If you don't want people to read your shirt, then wear a plain T-shirt next time.

Ralph Harris
San Francisco

Guns, gays, and God

With all the bad news out of Iraq recently, Bush's polling numbers should be in the single digits. Now, while Bush is weakened, would be the perfect opportunity for the Kerry campaign to hit him full force with everything they've got. But we hear nothing from Kerry. Why? Because John Kerry is a weak candidate and has similar platforms to Bush when it comes to guns, gays, God, and more. The Republicans will use these platforms more and more as it gets closer to Election Day. And Kerry has little defense. Kerry would be a "me too" candidate during any debates (like Al Gore was). Kerry supports massive increases in defense spending, he voted for the Homeland Security Act and he wants to stay the course in Iraq. Kerry is also against gay marriage. And in a Kerry administration, no university that receives federal aid will be allowed to ban the ROTC from their campus, except for religious reasons. Kerry also supported what Bush calls his "No Child Left Behind Act."

To pour salt in the wounds of anyone leaning to the left of Bush, Kerry also supports NAFTA, the WTO and GATT and supported Bush's tax cuts for the wealthy (Kerry's wife is heiress to the Heinz ketchup fortune).

At what point do the Democrats begin to consider that they haven't nominated this guy yet? Kerry doesn't have what it takes to win and has got to go. The Democrats should bring forward candidates at their convention in Boston who have a strong message and offer a real alternative for the electorate in November. Otherwise,

we may very well have to suffer another four years of the Bush administration. That would mean a further escalation of the U.S. government spreading hatred around this country and around the world; and bring us closer to a pre-Stonewall, pre-Roe v. Wade era and worse. Maybe the Dems need to resurrect Howard Dean or Dennis Kucinich.

The Democrats should blaze a new trail of hope and fresh ideas that larger numbers can support. As Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path, and leave a trail." It's time to excite the electorate and send someone to the White House that is willing to not only undo all the damage this country continues to suffer but also plant a new garden of hope for future generations.

Robert Meslinsky
San Francisco

A committed public servant

Although we were very excited to see the debut of Theresa Sparks on the SF Police Commission earlier this month, we are also sad to lose a very committed public servant, Wayne Friday, who retired when the Police Commission was reconstituted. Friday has a long-standing history of not only chronicling the moves of San Francisco politics – with an especially keen eye on LGBT politics – for 25 years, but also fighting for civil and LGBT rights as an SF police commissioner.

In the early 1990s, he consistently encouraged the LGBT police officers to form an advocacy group, which directly gave rise to the very successful and influential SF Pride Alliance. Especially in years when fighting for better treatment of LGBT officers was difficult, he stood stalwart, laying the foundation for increased LGBT leadership among the police ranks, as well as fair treatment of LGBT officers.

We thank Friday for all his years of public service and look forward to seeing what advocacy role he will take on next.

Laura Spanjian and Rich Kowalewski,
Co-Chairs

Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club



Mailstrom

Important to be out

Jennifer Usher [Mailstrom, April 29] asserts that it's okay for trans people not to come out, since to do so runs counter to her purpose, which is "to live the rest of my life as a woman." It's fine if Ms. Usher doesn't think living a closeted life isn't about internalized transphobia and stigma, but why does she need to write a letter criticizing those of us who are out and proud? Stay in the closet as long as you need to, for reasons of safety, to assimilate, whatever. Just don't take up so much space letting the rest of us know. With no end in sight to the current assault on LGBT civil liberties, it's important for those of us choosing to be out to be heard loudest and proudest. These are the voices that will ensure LGBT rights now and in the future.

Shawna Virago
San Francisco

Real 'Troy' story missing

Your *Troy* review ["Boys town," May 13] and Brad Pitt interview ["Trojan beauty"] totally missed the real story. Achilles, the Greek warrior prince played by Pitt, and his lover Patroclus, are one of the most famous male love duos of all time. A central event of Homer's *Iliad*, the ostensible source for the movie, is the slaying of Patroclus by Hector, the prince of Troy, and Achilles's passionate descent into grief – disappearing into his tent and refusing to come out and fight for days on end, jeopardizing the success of the entire 10-year Greek war enterprise, and necessitating poetic appeals from one warrior after another for Achilles to put aside his mourning and come out and lead the Greeks to victory. The *Iliad* actually gives this relationship a centrality hardly rivaled by the more pedestrian heterosexual love duo of Paris and Helen. Imagine that on the big screen! The real story for a gay paper that Robert Julian and Tim Nasson, and your editor, missed is why Hollywood was afraid to present Pitt with a male lover – the decisions behind the elision, who made them, and for what reasons. I thought gay characters were acceptable in the new Hollywood – maybe just not gay warriors. I can think of some fine questions for Pitt that were glaringly missing from your frothy interview-lite.

Mr. Julian says, "The ancient story of Troy is a simple one." It is not so simple to those who know their Homer. The simple fact that a gay paper should miss this issue, bowled over by the \$200-million dollar production and pretty-boy lead, is embarrassing and inexcusable. If it's any comfort, the *Chronicle's* Mick LaSalle did little better. Declaring *Troy* is "all Hollywood and no Homer" and "not the movie for people who have read the *Iliad*," he too ignores Homer; but then, the *Chronicle* is no gay paper and under no obligation.

Gary Lea
San Francisco

[Arts editor's note: See the "Karrn Knowledge" column for more on Achilles/Patroclus.]

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The not-so-golden years

by Paula Martinac

It was only a small story, easily overshadowed by news of the horrific abuse of prisoners in Iraq. And the fact that it was such a small story, receiving so little media attention, made it even more frightening: in a recent speech, Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan once again voiced grave concern about the effects of the "yawning fiscal deficit" on the future of the Social Security and Medicare systems. At about the same time as Greenspan's warning, the president requested a whopping \$25 billion from Congress to continue the U.S. occupation of Iraq.

Chairman Greenspan says he sees no escape from the country's fiscal crisis unless there are cuts made to public benefits for retirees — an option that both President Bush and Senator John Kerry are well aware of but obviously don't want to talk about. But as more and more gay people live longer and approach the time when we should be able to retire, the issue of aging becomes one that our community desperately needs to talk about — with an eye to arriving at concrete plans.

I say "should be able to retire," because there's no question in my mind that a lot of gay people simply won't be able to stop working — ever. There are those, for example, who are self-employed, who work in low-paying jobs, or whose employers don't offer pension plans. Many, too, started saving for retirement only in middle age, because, like our straight counterparts, we had other obligations earlier in our lives — educations to finance, children to raise, mortgage payments to meet, parents to care for. Sadly, it's the middle and working classes, gay and straight, who will be deeply affected by the probable collapse of Social Security, the cushion that saw a lot of our parents through old age. Lesbians may be particularly hard hit, since women still earn considerably less than men.

Because there are so many challenges and hurdles, it's no wonder that few of us can summon the courage to discuss growing old in the 21st century. When we do get around to searching for information, it's relatively easy to learn what the questions are, but pretty hard to find answers.

Too much of the focus is still on gay retirement communities, as if condos in warm climates were a panacea and not just places where a select few of us will spend our golden years. Consider that Joy Silver, the president of RainbowVision Properties, which is building a 146-unit gay retirement village in Santa Fe, New Mexico, says she envisions a community where people will chit-chat in a rooftop cafe, enjoy art and cooking classes, and take part in cross-dressing bingo (no joke).

Okay, she's a businesswoman, and bingo in drag could be fun. But it's time to raise the quality of the dialogue and address issues that will affect a much larger number of gay people. The Human Rights Campaign, for example, has made lobbying for Social Security survivor benefits for same-sex couples a major issue on its plate. However, given that the public retirement system's future is shakier every day, our organizations may need to rethink and broaden their efforts.

Coincidentally, Greenspan's warning arrived just weeks before an important national conference on LGBT aging called "Aging on Our Own Terms," which is being held in mid-June in New York City, sponsored by our premier senior advocacy group, SAGE. (For more info, visit www.sageusa.org.) The conference promises to address such vital questions as what gay community infrastructures are already in place that can be made to work for old gay people and what new institutions will be needed to care for our elders in the future. A wide range of registration and housing fees makes the conference affordable to all.

Interestingly, SAGE provides an excellent example of how national gay organizations can transform themselves to meet the needs of a changing, aging community. Founded in 1977, SAGE's acronym originally stood for Senior Action in a Gay Environment, a title that primarily spoke to the social needs of older gay people — for example, having activities and friends in order to avoid isolation and loneliness.

Although social activities will always be an important function of gay senior groups, more and more they're only part of the equation. The fact is, many of us will need a lot more than some good gay company in our golden years. In light of changing times, SAGE's initials are now shorthand for Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders. The new name not only recognizes the breadth of our community, but also suggests that the organization is taking a more pro-active role on gay senior issues — now, while there's time to make a difference. ▼



Christine Smith

Marriage bill

◀ page 3

would increase its chances of passage. Members of the Legislature's LGBT Caucus are also joint authors.

Earlier this month, in a foreshadowing of this week's developments, Nunez, who supports AB1967, told reporters that the bill was "probably not a fight we engage in this year."

But on Wednesday, Nunez confirmed he would sign on as a joint author of the bill when it is reintroduced.

"I will continue to work with Assemblyman Leno on this issue," Nunez said. "I understand this is a contentious issue, but we must find the courage within ourselves to persevere for a cause as just as this. We remain committed to ensuring equality and civil rights for every resident of this state."

AB1967 would amend the state's family code to allow same-sex couples to obtain a marriage license.

Geoff Kors, executive director of Equality California, the main sponsor of the bill, expressed "disappointment" Wednesday morning. Based on EQCA's discussions with Assembly members, Kors told the B.A.R. that his "best

guess" on legislative support was "close to 40 votes" for AB1967.

"Once you get to 37 or 38 votes, it's hard to get three more," Kors said. It's easier, he said, once supporters can claim 40 votes to get the last one needed for passage. Assemblywoman Jackie

Goldberg's AB205 that expanded rights and responsibilities for state-registered domestic partners, passed the Assembly last year with 43 votes.

Kors called Nunez's commitment to sign on as a joint author of

page 12 ▶

AIDS vigil milestone



Jane Pilonen-Cleland

Community members joined together Sunday, May 16 for the 20th annual AIDS Candlelight Vigil. Participants marched from the Castro to Civic Center Plaza, where there was a short program of music, speakers, and performance. The candlelight vigil got its start in San Francisco and New York and is now the largest grassroots event, with similar marches taking place in some 3,000 communities around the world.

POLITICS

Bush's job approval ratings sinking

by Wayne Friday

Most serious political analysts don't start paying too much attention to political polls on the presidential election until after the summer nominating conventions, but if several national polls released this week are any indication, **George W. Bush**, virtually considered a shoe-in for re-election a year ago, has got a lot of selling to do between now and November if he wants to keep his job.

These are early numbers but some of the top polling sources this week show that Bush is headed for serious re-election trouble. A *Newsweek* poll released Sunday shows Bush with an all-time low 42 percent job approval rating while a clear 52 percent majority of those asked say they disapprove of the job the president is doing.

A similar poll done by the respected Pew Research Center and announced late last week had Bush with a job approval rating of 44 percent, down from 49 percent a month ago and 58 percent in January.

A CNN/*Time* poll released over the weekend

showed that among national voters most likely to vote, Massachusetts Senator **John Kerry**, the presumptive Democratic nominee, leads Bush 49 percent to 44 percent, with independent candidate **Ralph Nader** getting 6 percent. The latest Pew poll gives Kerry a 50-45 percent lead over Bush in a two-way race, with a 2.5-point margin of error; the Kerry lead narrows to 46-43 percent when Nader is included.

The Pew Research Center poll, the *Newsweek*, and the CNN/*Time* polls are viewed as an early indicator of the electorate's current mood.

Other top pollsters agree that Bush's numbers look particularly bad this early in the election year. "He is clearly in dangerous [re-election] territory now," pollster **John Zogby** said of Bush.

Further, **Frank Newport**, the editor in chief of the oldest of the nation's polls, the Gallup Poll, points out this week that Bush's slowly sinking job approval rating is remarkably similar to the dropping trajectory of the last three incumbent presidents to lose — **Gerald Ford**, **Jimmy Carter**, and the president's father, **George H.W. Bush**.

Yet another poll, one done by NBC and the *Wall Street Journal*, put Bush's approval rating at 47 percent, with 49 percent saying he does not deserve another term, and 50 percent saying they thought the country is now headed in the wrong direction.

Low approval numbers this deep into an election year are particularly bad for an incumbent, who, of course, is already well known to the nation's voters. It is a historical fact that undecided voters, who have had plenty of time to evaluate the incumbent, often break heavily at the last moment for the challenger.

Much of this presidential election will no doubt be decided based on whatever excitement the conventions bring, whom Kerry picks as his running mate, and

how the presidential debates go later in the election year. But if things continue to go badly in Iraq and the battle against terrorism — once thought to be Bush's greatest strengths — voters in November clearly could turn to Kerry as their preferable alternative.

With nearly six months until the election, polls are sure to fluctuate, and everyone understands that the most important poll happens on November 2, but as it looks now, Bush could go the way of his father and be a single-term president. Frankly, I would hope that America could be so blessed.

Politics and people

There are loads of candidates for the District 5 supervisorial seat that **Matt Gonzalez** is giving up. Late entries include D.A. investigator **Ross Mirkarimi**, a Greenie who ran the Nader state campaign in 2000 (but tells me he's backing

Democrat **John Kerry** this time around), and Rescue Muni activist **Andrew Sullivan**, thought to be one of those in the top tier of the gaggle of candidates in that contest. Longtime LGBT activist **Robert Haaland** was one of the early candi-

dates to announce. Former prosecutor **Jim Hammer** will not run. Meanwhile, retired Superior Court Judge **Lillian Sing** is picking up a lot of early support in her bid to oust the pompous, long-winded supe in District 1, **Jake McGoldrick**. Contrary to last week's item, **Joe O'Donoghue**, president of the Residential Builders Association, is now reportedly not running for McGoldrick's seat, and will work to block the election of Sing. The *San Francisco Chronicle* reported Tuesday that O'Donoghue considers Sing "an automatic vote" for Mayor **Gavin Newsom**.

Supervisor **Tony Hall** has reportedly raised a ton of money and grabbed a lot of big-name endorsements, but both **Bill Fazio** or **Annenmarie Conroy** could still give the guy a run in District 7.

The Civil Service Commission is taking this budget crisis pretty seriously; they voted 4-1 on Monday to reduce the pay of the Board of Supervisors from \$112,000 to around \$90,000 annually. As for raises for elected city officials, i.e., city attorney, district attorney, etc. — zippo, nadda.

Assemblyman **Mark Leno** (D-San Francisco) attended the big Equality California dinner in Palm Springs Saturday night, which was hosted by that city's openly gay Mayor **Ron Oden**. During the evening's festivities, San Francisco lesbian icons **Phyllis Lyon** and **Del Martin** presented Leno with the distinguished "Legislator of the Year Award."

Conservative legal groups represented by the Alliance Defense Fund filed suit last week against San Jose Mayor **Ron Gonzales** in an attempt to block the city from recognizing gay and lesbian city employees who got married in San Francisco earlier this year. The suit asks the Santa Clara County Superior Court to declare that San Jose has no legal authority to recognize same-sex marriage licenses issued elsewhere. On March 9,

the San Jose City Council voted 8-1 to extend health and dental benefits to the families of all the city's married employees, including same-sex couples.

A press release from the Log Cabin Republicans of San Francisco informs me that Democratic Mayor **Gavin Newsom** (hey, it's a nonpartisan office) will be its featured speaker on May 25, 7-9 p.m. at the SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street (415-765-5638 for info).

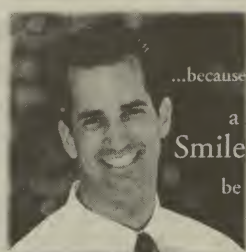
Like him or hate the guy, one has to hand it to Governor **Arnold Schwarzenegger** for having the political chutzpah to pull the wool over the eyes of just about everyone (particularly the Legislature) and get his own way in Sacramento. Schwarzenegger's newly revised \$100 billion budget appears to avoid deep cuts in spending and includes no new taxes, but even many of Schwarzenegger's GOP allies see huge deficit problems looming a couple of years down the road. Schwarzenegger managed to get his new budget by almost totally bypassing the leaders of the Legislature and cutting deals with local governments, teachers unions, public universities, and those groups traditionally allied with the Legislature's majority Democrats. Some Democrats, particularly state Treasurer **Phil Angelides**, a probable candidate for governor in 2006, have taken aim at the governor's budget, predicting it will eventually dig the state into a deeper hole, insisting that the governor's reliance on bond revenue to finance short-term spending and his refusal to even consider tax increases are only prolonging the fiscal crisis. San Francisco Assemblyman **Mark Leno** went on TV the other evening to "explain" that the governor's new budget is in large part a compilation of smoke and mirrors. But for the most part, however, legislators of both parties in Sacramento are so nervous over the governor's popularity that they will surely roll over and give the guy anything and everything he asks for.

So, I'm betting that the abuse at Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison eventually (and sooner rather than later) gives the boot to Defense Secretary **Donald Rumsfeld**. Is this thing getting sick or what? President Bush and Rumsfeld should stop trying to dump the blame of this sorry mess on the shoulders of America's enlisted men and women; the entire chain of command in Iraq, all the way up to the Pentagon, must be part of the investigation. Further, Bush and his GOP allies in Congress should stop trying to evade responsibility by accusing those who want to ask tough questions — Democrats and Republicans alike — of being "disloyal" to the troops and the war effort.

Gray Davis as football prognosticator/weather forecaster: As for the chances of the NFL ever returning to Los Angeles, former Governor **Gray Davis**, a resident of L.A., told ESPN.com recently that "I don't think we'll ever see another pro football team here. The NFL keeps claiming they're going to come here. It may happen. It could also rain beer."

And how was your week? ▼

Got a political item of tip? E-mail WayneFridaySF@aol.com



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Who were the Cambridge Spies?

by Liz Highleyman

May 25, 1951 (53 years ago this month): British spies Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean defect to the Soviet Union.

Three queer men — Guy Burgess, Donald Maclean, and Anthony Blunt — played key roles in an espionage scandal that rocked the British intelligence establishment and likely changed the course of history.

Burgess, Maclean, Blunt, and their associate, Harold "Kim" Philby, came from upper-class backgrounds and received elite educations. They became friends at Cambridge University. Burgess was a flamboyant gay man with an active sex life. He was an occa-

sional lover of Blunt, and also reportedly had sexual liaisons with the bisexual Maclean.

During the Depression, Cambridge was a hotbed of radical ideas, and many young intellectuals embraced Marxism. Burgess, Maclean, Blunt, and Philby all made connections with the KGB in the early 1930s, though it remains unclear who recruited whom.

The four men obtained various positions within the British foreign service and intelligence establishments. Burgess worked for the Secret Service, where he hired Philby. After World War II, Philby was put in charge of a new counterespionage division. Blunt briefly worked for the counterintelligence service, but thereafter followed his passion for art.

In 1944, Maclean landed a high-level position at the British embassy in Washington, D.C. A tense and nervous man, he found it increasingly difficult to manage what became a double life — although married, he engaged in indiscreet homosexual liaisons and spouted anti-American rhetoric when drunk. Nevertheless, by 1950, he was head of Britain's American Department in London.

By this time, Philby had become the top British intelligence officer in Washington, and Burgess had garnered a position as his assistant. Before Burgess was dispatched to the United States, he

was admonished to avoid radicals, racial politics, and overt homosexual encounters. "In other words," he replied, "I mustn't make a pass at Paul Robeson?"

In 1951, Philby learned that the FBI suspected Maclean was a spy, and dispatched Burgess to London to warn him. On May 25, an informant alerted Burgess that

Maclean would soon be questioned, and the two men defected to the Soviet Union. Maclean adapted well to Soviet life, but Burgess missed the freedom and material benefits he had enjoyed in England. Although permitted to live with a male lover, he con-

tinued drinking heavily and died at age 52.

With the abrupt departure of Burgess and Maclean, suspicion fell on Philby. He was relieved of his duties and sent back to London, but avoided censure until defecting Soviet agents fingered him a decade later. In 1963, he too fled to the Soviet Union.

The search continued for the "fourth man" who had alerted Philby. In 1963, another former Cambridge associate revealed that Blunt had recruited him as a Soviet agent. By this time, Blunt had become a respected art historian and curator of the royal family's art collection. Blunt confessed to his role, but was given immunity and allowed to retain his positions. In 1979, however, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher publicly exposed him. Blunt was

stripped of his knighthood, retreated from public life, and lived quietly with his lover until he died in 1983.

The defection of Burgess and Maclean reinforced the association of homosexuality, communism, and treason in the public mind. At the height of the McCarthy era, the case had major ramifications for homosexuals in the United States. The prohibition against gay men and lesbians holding federal government positions was not lifted until 1975. ▼

Liz Highleyman is a freelance writer and editor who has written widely on health,

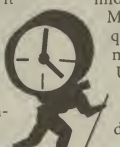
sexuality, and politics. She can be reached care of this publication or at PastOut@qsyndicate.com.

Suggested reading

Carter, Miranda. 2002. *Anthony Blunt: His Lives* (Farrar, Straus & Giroux).

Modin, Yuri, et al. 1995. *My Five Cambridge Friends* (Farrar, Straus & Giroux).

Newton, Verne. 1991. *The Cambridge Spies: The Untold Story of Maclean, Philby, and Burgess in America* (Madison).



Past Out

News in brief

◀ page 4

ered will present a community forum, "Power Dynamics in Same-Sex Relationships" Thursday, May 27 from 6:30-9 p.m. at the LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street, in the Cerebral Room. A panel of therapists, lawyers, and mediators will lead a discussion of power dynamics in same-sex relationships, focusing on how new marriage and domestic partnership laws — and the way community members view their relationships — can affect power imbalances. Presenters include attorney Emily Doskow, attorney Frederick Hertz, Betsy Kassoff, Ph.D., and Stacey Shuster, Ph.D. The event is free. For questions or to reserve free childcare (limited space available), call NCLR at (415) 392-6257.

Hearing on intersex issues

The San Francisco Human Rights Commission will hold a public hearing on intersex issues Thursday, May 27, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. in San Francisco City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, room 416.

Intersex has been defined as anatomies that have a combination of male and female sexual characteristics and is therefore not considered "standard" as male or female. Estimates of the frequency of children born with intersex anatomies range from approximately 1 in 150 to 1 in 2000 births.

The commission will take testimony on whether infants with intersex anatomies should be surgically assigned gender by doctors who are unable to determine if the child's sex is male or female, and who do not know what the child's gender identity is or will be. Commissioners also will consider whether some infant surgeries are truly medical emergencies or are performed solely for cosmetic reasons. Further, the commission will investigate to what degree parents are given sufficient information to make informed consent and given referrals to appropriate support networks.

Members of the San Francisco Health Commission will also be in attendance. A report with findings and recommendations will be created from the information collected during the hearing.

Spirituality forum

With major religious denominations debating the roles of LGBT members in the pews and as ordained ministers in the pulpit, the Commonwealth Club will host a public affairs forum on the topic Thursday, May 27 from 5:30-7 p.m. at 595 Market Street in downtown San Francisco. Panelists will

include Rabbi Denise Eger of Congregation Kol Ami in West Hollywood; author Christian de la Huerta; the Reverend Karen Oliveto of Bethany Methodist Church in San Francisco; and the Reverend Troy Perry, founder and moderator of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. The moderator will be John Lazar, regional vice president of the American Cancer Society and co-finance chair of the Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club.

Admission is \$6 for Commonwealth Club members; \$12 for non-members. To RSVP, visit www.commonwealthclub.org or call (415) 597-6705, 597-6706, or 800-847-7730.

Healthy Penis event

The creators of the Healthy Penis campaign are hosting a world premiere party for the community to see the debut of the campaign's first television commercial.

The free event will take place from 7:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, May 27 in the LGBT Community Center's Rainbow Room, 1800 Market Street. The commercial stars the healthy penis and Phil the syphilis sore and will air after 10 p.m. on certain cable channels.

The event will include refreshments, a historical audio-visual clip of the campaign, and the airing of the commercial. The event is sponsored by the Department of Public Health and the social marketing firm Better World Advertising.

For more information, visit www.healthypenis2004.org.

Lambda Letters needs funds

Lambda Letters Project, a Sacramento-based LGBT advocacy group, is still falling short of its fundraising goals this year. According to the organization, it has deposited \$13,700 in donations while it should have collected \$20,600 to be on track to reach its goal of \$62,000. The project estimates its expenses this year will total \$52,800.

One of the group's largest donations to date came from Terry Sidie, owner of Faces in Sacramento, on behalf of the Court of the Great Northwest Imperial Empire, in the amount of \$1,000.

The statewide organization sends thousands of Californians weekly, and at times daily, action alerts and updates about pending legislation in Sacramento. It tracks public policy battles on LGBT issues; HIV/AIDS issues; people of color issues; and women's issues.

Last year, project members sent more than a quarter-million letters and e-mails to state lawmakers. Anyone who wishes to donate or become a member can visit <http://lambdaletters.org>. ▼

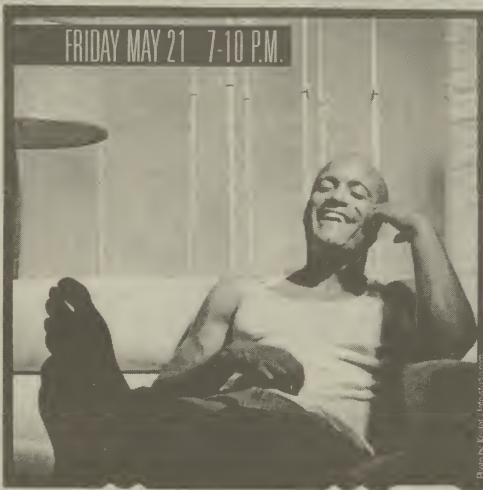


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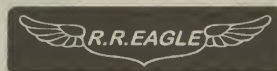
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DE SALVO

Hate crime perp sentenced to house arrest

by Zak Szymanski

Jack Broughton, a white heterosexual ex-military man who stands over 6 feet tall, said he has always felt awkward dancing. This admission, in a rare moment of vulnerability for Broughton, signaled the end to a 21-month long court case against him, which was punctuated by his loud sobbing as he awaited sentencing by San Francisco Superior Court Judge Kay Tsenin on Thursday, May 13.

In February, just after a full jury had been selected for his trial, Broughton pleaded guilty to a felony hate crime for the brutal assault of two women at the San Francisco Drag King contest in August 2002. Over the objections of the district attorney's office, Community United Against Violence, and the victims, Broughton was sentenced last week to just one year of house arrest and three years probation.

On the night of August 22, 2002, when Broughton and his fiancée, Jean Earl, decided to go dancing at the South of Market club Studio Z, he was drunk and feeling not welcome at the club's queer-attended party, and hurled racial and homophobic epithets at the patrons as he was escorted outside by the bouncer. Broughton then proceeded to beat two women — one of them unconscious — all while uttering racist and homophobic remarks. With blood on his hands and clothing, he left the scene and walked with Earl to the Eagle bar where he reportedly taunted patrons as "fags" before police found and arrested him.

Just prior to the beating, according to witnesses, Earl punched an unsuspecting Yvette Balderas in the mouth as the couple was exiting the club.

Balderas went outside to ask the woman "who she was, and why she did that," according to prior testimony, at which point Earl swung again and missed, and

Balderas swung back, knocking Earl to the ground. Seeing Earl on the sidewalk, Broughton told the court last week, "I lost track of who I was."

Allegedly in defense of Earl, Broughton immediately punched the just-over 5 foot tall Balderas, but he didn't stop there, repeatedly punching and kicking her along her head, neck, and torso while she lay on the ground.

Balderas received multiple injuries from Broughton's beating, and as she told the court on Thursday, "I prepared myself to die."

Balderas's friend Mariah Sparks attempted to pull Broughton off her, but Broughton punched her as well, and through his actions that night, "punched and kicked a hole into my life," Sparks told the court as she described finding Balderas "covered in blood, unresponsive to my slap on her arm."

"On August 22, 2002, I learned my community could not protect me from homophobic violence," said Sparks. "If I can't be safe in San Francisco as a queer person I'm not sure I can be safe anywhere."

Last Thursday's victim impact statements further described how the women have suffered mental, emotional, and financial hardship. The victims also asked the court to consider sentencing Broughton to prison time.

After the emotional statements were read, Tsenin was prepared to recess when Broughton asked to speak. As he spoke through tears, he said, "I do feel the pain that everyone in here feels. I wouldn't want anything like this to happen to anyone I know."

In her decision to give Broughton a suspended sentence, Tsenin said she heavily considered Balderas's altercation with Earl, which likely provoked Broughton's

initial punch. In Tsenin's courtroom, however, history was rewritten when that altercation was described as Balderas knocking Earl to the ground and making a forceful and competitive "safe" sign like an umpire. In fact Balderas mentioned that hand gesture in court last year as an indicator that she was done with the confrontation and "had enough"; it was a previous judge who described that gesture as a "safe sign" for the purposes of the court record.

Angering many in the courtroom, Tsenin also refused to mandate sensitivity training for Broughton, saying that his anger management courses were enough for now, and that his racist and homophobic remarks were "the alcohol talking."

Broughton is reportedly in treatment for alcohol abuse. The court ordered him to pay restitution and to stay away from the victims, Studio Z, and the Eagle. ▼

Leal

◀ page 3

Reporter on Tuesday, May 18. "I think the type of leadership skills I've brought to the treasurer's department and to business will serve me well in the PUC."

Newsom has publicly agreed, and told reporters he expects Leal to take charge and make some difficult decisions. The PUC operates on a \$430 million annual budget with close to 2,000 employees. Its reorganization is critical to protect the water system from state threats to repossess it from the city.

As the city's first Latina to serve on the Board of Supervisors in 1993, Leal later chaired the Finance Committee, where she balanced a \$4 billion budget, and co-authored San Francisco's landmark equal benefits ordinance. As the city's elected treasurer since 1997, Leal has been credited with generating the largest return on investments than any other major county in California, despite an economic downturn. Leal has also adopted socially responsible screens on city investments and doubling the collection of delinquent business taxes.

Leal told the B.A.R. that she will have input into who replaces her as treasurer, a job listed with a \$140,000 salary, and that she believes her shoes can be filled because, "We've set very good structure in place here and built a very strong department, and I know the mayor wants to continue the good work we've done here."

At the PUC, Leal would replace

Pat Martel, another Latina lesbian, who reportedly earned \$210,000 a year. Martel was also the president of the LGBT Community Center board during its final construction phase and grand opening.

Leal's immediate plans for the post, she said, would focus on getting the PUC organized and gaining the public trust, which would enable the agency to tackle the water system upgrade as well as issues like implementing public power and ridding the southeast sector of the city of power plants in favor of cleaner resources. Public power, said Leal, has failed to capture widespread support be-

cause "You have to have the structure in place before people can say 'let's go to public power.' Without the structure you can't look at the finances around the project or anything else."

As always, Leal said she is well aware that her position would help to represent women, Latinos, and LGBT people in leadership roles.

"It shows again how people in our community continue to be looked to for significant positions, whether in business or government, and this department is actually a combination of those sectors," she said. ▼

New publisher

◀ page 2

amount.

A graduate of the University of New Mexico and the University of California, Los Angeles School of Law, Horn settled in San Francisco in 1976 and has been active in numerous civic, cultural, and community activities. He has served in various capacities in the administrations of the last five mayors of San Francisco.

Horn continues to serve as a trustee of the San Francisco War Memorial and Performing Arts Center, which administers the Opera House, Davies Symphony Hall, and the Herbst Theatre. He served for many years with Ross on the board of trustees of the San Francisco Ballet Association.

Ross had named Horn executor and trustee of his estate, and Horn has been administering the newspaper serving informally as publisher since Ross's death.

In another administrative change, the board announced that

attorney Paul H. Melbostad, of the San Francisco firm of Goldstein, Gellman, Melbostad, Gibson, & Harris, has been named legal counsel, succeeding Horn.

After graduating with a joint JD/MBA degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1981, Melbostad became a member of the California Bar and was certified by the National Institute for Trial Advocacy in 1986.

Melbostad, 50, has served on various city commissions, most recently he as a member of the Ethics Commission, from which he has since resigned. He also served on the Board of Permit Appeals under former Mayor Art Agnos.

Melbostad served for eight years on the board of 18th Street Services, which provided substance abuse treatment for gay men and others at high risk for HIV/AIDS. That agency merged with Operation Concern and is now New Leaf: Services for Our Community. Additionally, Melbostad has served as pro bono counsel for a number of nonprofit social service organizations. ▼

Marriage bill

◀ page 8

the new bill "incredibly significant."

"It's a temporary halt," Kers said of this week's developments.

Kers also urged the community to "get involved like never before" when the new bill is introduced.

In another sign of support for the bill, four Democratic statewide officeholders came out in favor of AB1967 on Monday. Secretary of State Kevin Shelley, Treasurer Phil Angelides, Controller Steve Westly, and Insurance Commissioner John Garamendi

all joined EQCA in backing the measure.

"Domestic partnerships, while improving the lives of thousands of Californians, are inherently unequal at the end of the day," Garamendi said in a statement. "I'm proud to support this bill because it speaks to one of the most fundamental principles of our nation — that all people are created equal."

Kers also said that EQCA would be working to garner support from Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, who would have to sign any measure for it to become law. Kers said that so far, Republican lawmakers have all lined up against the bill. ▼

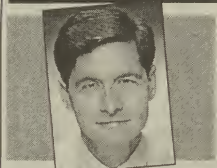


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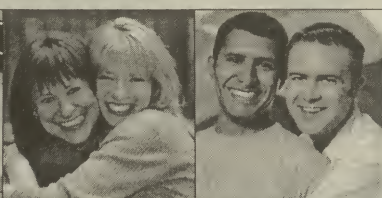


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The Human Rights Campaign congratulates the many newlyweds and salutes Mayor Gavin Newsom and the activists responsible for bringing fairness to thousands of same-sex couples in California. We are proud to stand with you against those trying to amend the U.S. Constitution to end your marriages.

Accidental icons: First married couple talks to the B.A.R.

by Ed Walsh

Tanya McCloskey, 52 and Marcia Kadish, 56, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that they never intended to make history when they showed up to apply for a marriage license application in Cambridge last Sunday night, May 16.

They were assigned number 56 when they arrived about 8 p.m. The line moved quickly after the first couple, who had camped out 24 hours earlier, completed their application a little after midnight. After 55 other gay couples successfully completed their applications, McCloskey and Kadish had their turn.

They finally completed their application around 1:30 a.m. and went back home to Malden, Massachusetts, about five miles away. After a couple of hours sleep, they got up early to get back to Cambridge City Hall to apply for a waiver from a judge allowing them to get married right way, rather than waiting the required three days.

They showed up at City Hall at 6:30 a.m., expecting another long line. But to their surprise, they were first.

"Marcia stood in line, and I went to get breakfast," McCloskey explained.

By the time McCloskey got back with breakfast, others were in line. At 8 a.m., when City Hall opened, they were processed through to appear before a judge. The judge issued their waiver and they

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Mass. weddings

◀ page 1

court challenges. Also with the group was Thom Lynch, the director of San Francisco's LGBT Community Center, and Sylvia Rhue, the director of the California Freedom to Marry Coalition.

In an interview, McKay explained that the confrontation she saw between the protester and the father was reflective of the strong heterosexual support she saw throughout Massachusetts, something she had not witnessed elsewhere in the country.

"I have never seen the non-gay community so enthused and excited," she said.

The countdown to same-sex marriage began late Sunday night in Cambridge, Massachusetts, one of the most liberal cities in the state, just across the Charles River from Boston.

A large crowd of supporters, along with a smattering of protesters, gathered outside and inside Cambridge City Hall. An hour-long ceremony and celebration, complete with a wedding cake, preceded the first gay couple filling out an application for marriage at 12:01 a.m. Marcia Hams, 56, and her partner, Susan Shep-



Julie and Hillary Goodridge, the lead plaintiffs in the Massachusetts marriage case, register to marry Monday at Boston City Hall.

herd, 52, were the first couple to complete the form. The Cambridge couple had camped out in front of City Hall for 24 hours. They told reporters they waited seven years to get married and weren't going to wait a second longer than they had to.

Massachusetts has a three-day waiting period for all marriages, so most of the hundreds of gay couples who successfully complet-

ed their marriage applications on Monday, May 17, weren't expected to tie the knot until later in the week. The waiting period could be waived by a judge's order. Several couples sought that option and were married Monday.

Tanya McCloskey, 52, and Marcia Kadish, 56, of Malden, Massachusetts, were among those who got waivers and were the first couple in the state to be married at 9:15 a.m.

As reporters and photographers looked on, Cambridge City Clerk Margaret Drury told the couple: "I now pronounce you married under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts."

Later in the day, Robert Comp-ton, 55, and David Wilson, 60, one of the seven couples who were part of the original lawsuit that resulted in the legalization of gay marriage in Massachusetts, married in Arlington Street Church in Boston. The Universalist church has long had the reputation for being one of the most gay-friendly churches in the state and will host a mass wedding ceremony today (Thursday, May 20).

Also marrying on Monday were Julie and Hillary Goodridge, the lead plaintiffs who challenged the state's gay marriage prohibition. The Goodridges have been among the most vocal and visible personifications of the same-sex marriage debate in Massachusetts.

"Next to the birth of our daughter, Annie, this is the happiest day of our lives," Julie Goodridge told a crowd of reporters in Boston.

By the end of the day, all seven couples who were part of the original lawsuit were married. The Associated Press reported Tuesday that more than 1,000 couples sought marriage licenses on Monday.

A *Boston Globe* survey found that two-thirds of the gays who applied for marriage licenses Monday were women. Half of the couples had been together for at least a decade and 90 percent were Massachusetts residents. Forty percent of female couples said they had children in their households, compared with 12 percent of the male couples. The newspaper polled 752 couples in 11 cities and towns.

Massachusetts does not have a residency requirement but the state's Republican governor, Mitt Romney, directed city clerks to enforce an arcane 1913 law that states that nonresidents may not marry in Massachusetts if their marriage would be void in their home state. While the attorneys general in at least two states, New York and Rhode Island, issued opinions that their states are obligated to recognize same-sex marriages issued in another state, Romney has insisted that that does not satisfy the requirements of the 1913 law.

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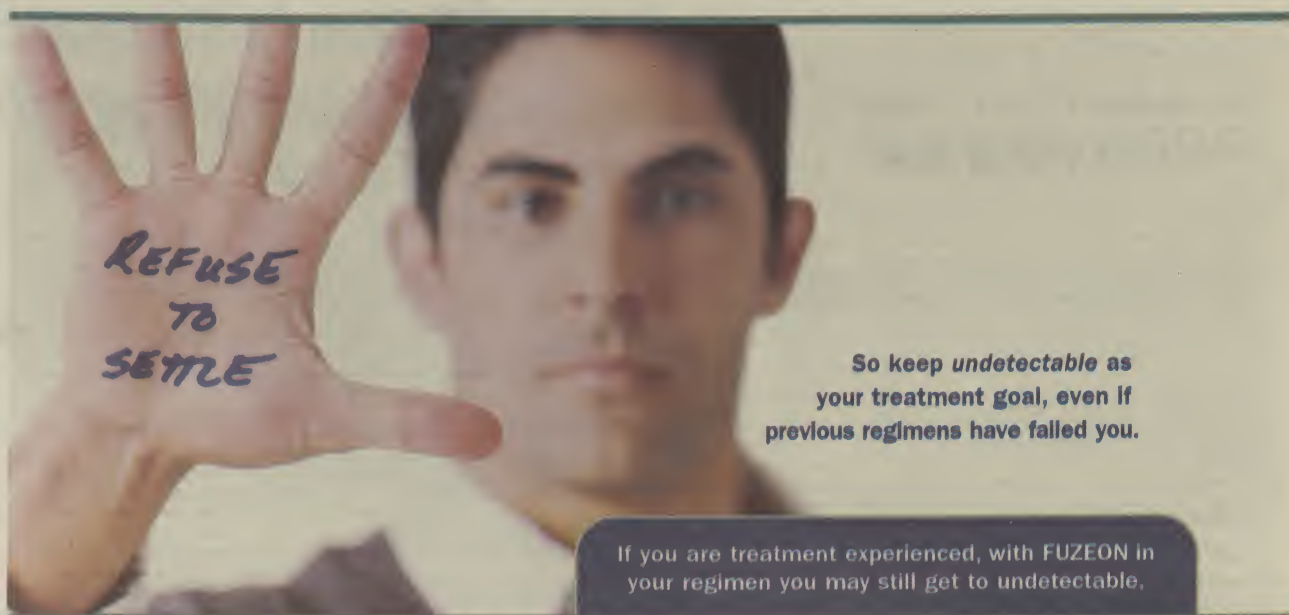
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 **FUZEON.**
enfuvirtide

Indication: FUZEON (enfuvirtide) is used with other anti-HIV medicines to treat HIV-1 infection in patients who have taken anti-HIV medicines (treatment-experienced) and have detectable viral loads even though they are taking anti-HIV medicines. This indication is based on viral loads and CD4 (T-cell) counts in studies of FUZEON that lasted 24 weeks. Patients in the studies were treatment-experienced adults, and many of them had advanced HIV disease. There are no studies of FUZEON in patients who haven't taken anti-HIV medicines. There are no results from studies looking at the effect of FUZEON on the progression of HIV disease.

Important Safety Information

Injection Site Reactions (ISRs): ISRs are the most common side effect seen with FUZEON use. Almost all people taking FUZEON (98%) get injection site reactions. 3% of patients quit taking FUZEON because of ISRs. Reactions are usually mild to moderate but occasionally may be severe. Signs/symptoms may include pain and discomfort, hardened skin, redness, bumps, itching and swelling. 9% of patients had ISRs that required them to take over-the-counter pain medicine or limit their usual activities.

Pneumonia: Patients taking FUZEON with other anti-HIV medicines got bacterial pneumonia more often than patients not taking FUZEON. It is unclear if this was related to the use of FUZEON. You should contact your healthcare provider right away if you have a cough, fever or trouble breathing. Patients are more likely to get bacterial pneumonia if they have a low number of CD4 cells, have a high viral load, use intravenous (injected into the vein) drugs, smoke or have had lung disease in the past.

Allergic reactions: Allergic reactions have been seen with FUZEON and can occur if FUZEON is restarted. Symptoms of a serious allergic reaction with FUZEON can include rash, fever, nausea and vomiting, chills, shaking, low blood pressure and increased liver enzymes. Other adverse events that may be an immune response and have been reported in patients taking FUZEON include serious immune system reactions, severe breathing difficulties, inflammation of the kidney and Guillain-Barre syndrome.

Other Side Effects: The side effects seen most often in patients taking FUZEON with their other anti-HIV medicines were diarrhea (26.8%), nausea (20.1%) and fatigue (16.1%). These side effects were seen less often than in patients taking anti-HIV medicines without FUZEON: diarrhea (33.5%), nausea (23.7%) and fatigue (17.4%). This list of side effects is not complete because FUZEON is still being studied.

If you have questions about side effects, ask your healthcare provider. Report any new or worsening symptoms to your healthcare provider.



TRIMERIS

FUZEON® is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. FUZEON does not prevent the transmission of HIV.
For additional details on FUZEON, please see the accompanying summary of complete product information.

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PATIENT INFORMATION

Rx ONLY

FUZEON® (FEW-zee-on)

Generic Name: enfuvirtide (en-FEW-ver-tide) for Injection

This leaflet contains important information for patients and their caregivers about FUZEON. Please read this leaflet and FUZEON Injection Instructions carefully before you start using FUZEON. Always read the section "Changes since the last version of this leaflet" at the end of this leaflet each time you get your FUZEON prescription refilled. There may be important new information about the use of FUZEON.

This information does not take the place of talking with your healthcare provider about your medical conditions or treatment.

What is FUZEON?

FUZEON is a medicine called an HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) fusion inhibitor. FUZEON is always used with other anti-HIV medicines to treat adults and children aged 6 years and older with HIV infection. FUZEON is not used by itself to treat HIV infection.

FUZEON blocks HIV's ability to infect healthy CD4 cells. When used with other anti-HIV medicines, FUZEON can reduce the amount of HIV in the blood and increase the number of CD4 cells. This may keep your immune system healthy, so it can help fight infection.

FUZEON does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of FUZEON are not known at this time. People taking FUZEON may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that can happen with HIV infection. **For these reasons, it is very important that you remain under the care of your healthcare provider while taking FUZEON.**

Does FUZEON lower the chance of passing HIV to other people?

FUZEON does not lower your chance of passing HIV to other people through unprotected sex, sharing needles or being exposed to your blood. For your own health and the health of others, it is important to continue to practice safer sex. Use a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier method to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions or blood. Never use or share dirty needles. Ask your healthcare provider if you have any questions about safer sex or how to prevent passing HIV to other people.

Who should not use FUZEON?

Do not use FUZEON if you are allergic to any of the ingredients in FUZEON. See the end of this leaflet for a list of ingredients in FUZEON.

Tell your healthcare provider:

- **If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.** We do not know if FUZEON can harm your unborn child. You and your healthcare provider will need to decide if FUZEON is right for you. If you use FUZEON while you are pregnant, talk with your healthcare provider about how you can be in the Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry.
- **If you are breast-feeding.** You should not breast-feed if you are HIV-positive because of the chance of passing HIV to your baby. Also, it is not known if FUZEON can pass into your breast milk and if it can harm your baby.
- **about all your medical conditions.**
- **about all the medicines you use,** including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins and herbal supplements. FUZEON has not been tested with all medicines.

How should I use FUZEON?

Before you use FUZEON, make sure you understand all of the information in this leaflet and the FUZEON Injection Instructions that come with your medicine. You or your caregiver should be trained by a healthcare provider before injecting it. If you do not understand all the information, talk with your healthcare provider about your questions or concerns.

- Use FUZEON with other anti-HIV medicines. **Do not use FUZEON as your only anti-HIV medicine.**
- FUZEON must be injected. FUZEON does not work if it is swallowed.
- Do not mix other medicines in the same syringe with FUZEON.
- FUZEON is given under the skin by injection (a "shot") in the upper arm, upper leg or abdomen two times a day. See the FUZEON Injection Instructions that come with your medicine for step-by-step instructions about how to inject FUZEON.
- Do not inject FUZEON in the same area as you did the time before. Do not inject FUZEON into the following areas: around the navel (belly button), scar tissue, a bruise or a mole, or where there is an injection site reaction.
- Do not inject FUZEON if you see particles floating in the FUZEON vial after you mix it.
- You can use FUZEON whether you have eaten or not. Food does not affect FUZEON. However, you must keep taking your other medicines the way you did before.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking FUZEON without first talking with your healthcare provider.
- See your healthcare provider regularly while using FUZEON.
- When your FUZEON supply runs low, be sure to have it refilled. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. If you miss or skip doses of FUZEON, HIV may develop resistance to FUZEON and become harder to treat.
- If you miss a dose of FUZEON, take the missed dose as soon as you can and then take your next dose as scheduled. If you have missed a dose of FUZEON and it is close to the time when you are supposed to take your next dose, wait and take the next dose as regularly scheduled. Do not take two doses of FUZEON at the same time.

If you take too much FUZEON, call your healthcare provider right away. We do not know what can happen if you take too much FUZEON. You will be watched very carefully if you take too much FUZEON.

It is important that you put your used syringes into a special sharps container after injecting FUZEON. Your healthcare provider will give you more instructions about the safe disposal of your used syringes. **Do not put them in a trash can.** If you do not have a sharps container, call your healthcare provider or pharmacist to get one before using FUZEON.

Can FUZEON be used with other medicines?

FUZEON does not affect other anti-HIV medicines or the medicine rifampin (also known as rifampicin and manufactured under the brand names Rifadin® and Rimactane®). You can take FUZEON at the same times or at different times than your other anti-HIV medicines.

What should I avoid while using FUZEON?

- Avoid doing anything that can spread HIV infection, since FUZEON does not stop you from passing the HIV infection to others.
- Do not share needles or other injection equipment.
- Do not share personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them, like toothbrushes or razor blades.
- Do not have any kind of sex without protection. Always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier method to reduce the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions or blood.
- Do not drive or operate heavy machinery if FUZEON makes you feel dizzy.

What are the possible side effects of FUZEON?**Injection site reactions**

FUZEON causes injection site reactions. Almost all people get injection site reactions with FUZEON. Reactions are usually mild to moderate but occasionally may be severe. Reactions on the skin where FUZEON is injected include:

- itching
- swelling
- redness
- pain or tenderness
- hardened skin
- bumps

These reactions generally happen within the first week of FUZEON treatment and usually happen again as you keep using FUZEON. A reaction at one skin injection site usually lasts for less than 7 days.

Injection site reactions may be worse when injections are given again in the same place on the body or when the injection is given deeper than it should be (for example, into the muscle).

If you are worried about the reaction you are having, call your healthcare provider to help you decide if you need medical care. **If the injection site reaction you are having is severe, call your healthcare provider right away.** If you have an injection site reaction, you can discuss with your healthcare provider ways to help the symptoms.

An injection site can get infected. To lower your chances of getting an injection site infection, it is important to follow the FUZEON Injection Instructions that come with your medicine. **Call your healthcare provider right away if there are signs of infection at the injection site such as oozing, increasing heat, swelling, redness or pain.**

Pneumonia

Patients with HIV get bacterial pneumonia more often than patients without HIV. In clinical trials, patients taking FUZEON with other HIV medicines got bacterial pneumonia more often than patients not receiving FUZEON. It is unclear if this was related to the use of FUZEON. **You should contact your healthcare provider right away if you have a cough, fever or trouble breathing.** Patients are more likely to get bacterial pneumonia if they had a low number of CD4 cells, increased amount of HIV in the blood, intravenous (injected into the vein) drug use, smoking or had experienced lung disease in the past. It is unclear if pneumonia is related to FUZEON.

Allergic reactions

FUZEON can cause serious allergic reactions. Symptoms of a serious allergic reaction with FUZEON can include:

- trouble breathing
- fever with vomiting and a skin rash
- blood in your urine
- swelling of your feet

Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of these symptoms.

Other side effects

The following side effects were seen more often in patients using FUZEON with their other anti-HIV medicines than in patients not using FUZEON with their other anti-HIV medicines:

- pain and numbness in feet or legs
- loss of sleep
- depression
- decreased appetite
- weakness or loss of strength
- muscle pain
- constipation
- pancreas problems

These are not all the side effects of FUZEON. The list of side effects with FUZEON is not complete at this time because FUZEON is still being studied.

If you have questions about side effects, ask your healthcare provider. **Report any new or continuing symptoms to your healthcare provider.** Your healthcare provider will tell you what to do and may be able to help you with these side effects.

How is FUZEON stored?

FUZEON vials not mixed with sterile water can be stored at room temperature (59° to 86°F). FUZEON should be refrigerated if it cannot be stored at room temperature. The Sterile Water for Injection (diluent) may be stored at room temperature (59° to 86°F).

After FUZEON has been mixed with the sterile water, the vial can be stored in a refrigerator for up to 24 hours.

Do not use FUZEON or sterile water after the expiration date on the vials. Do not keep FUZEON that is out of date or that you no longer need.

General information about the safe and effective use of FUZEON

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Do not use FUZEON for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give FUZEON to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them. **Keep FUZEON and all medicines out of the reach of children.**

This leaflet summarizes the most important information about FUZEON. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider or see the section, "Where can I get more information about FUZEON?" in this leaflet. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about FUZEON that is written for healthcare professionals.

What are the ingredients in FUZEON?

Active Ingredients: enfuvirtide

Inactive Ingredients: Mannitol, sodium carbonate, sodium hydroxide and hydrochloric acid.

FUZEON comes packaged as a convenience kit containing the following:

- 60 vials of FUZEON (2 cartons of 30 each)
- 60 vials of Sterile Water for Injection (2 cartons of 30 each)
- syringes for mixing (3 mL/cc)
- syringes for injecting (1 mL/cc)
- alcohol pads
- injection instructions

Call your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you need more supplies.

Where can I get more information about FUZEON?

The best source for more information about FUZEON is your healthcare provider. More information about FUZEON is located at www.fuzeon.com and 1-877-4 FUZEON (1-877-438-9366).

Changes since the last version of this leaflet

This is the first version of this leaflet; it was written in March 2003. Please check this section when your medicine is refilled for any important new information about FUZEON.

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Support group planned for partners of meth users

by Matthew S. Bajko

Already fighting for his own life due to AIDS-related complications, David Ibarguen spent the last two years battling his partner's demons as well.

Late at night the voices would begin to torment his boyfriend of 10 years, Neil Lewis, a talented DJ who long ruled over the old Sunday night Pleasuredome parties. Fueled by crystal meth-induced psychosis, the voices haunted Lewis at all hours.

"He was hearing voices 24/7 due to the crystal meth. They tormented him constantly," said Ibarguen.

The voices didn't stop until Lewis died on Sunday, February 29. Still grieving over his partner's death, Ibarguen is now speaking out publicly so that others do not lose their loved ones to meth.

"I don't want people to make the same mistakes I did," said Ibarguen, sitting on the living room couch of the Victorian flat near the LGBT Community Center he shared with Lewis. "I had no place to turn. I felt very lost along with him."

Due to his stepping forward, several community-based groups are in the process of establishing a support group for people whose loved ones are addicted to crystal. It most likely will meet at Magnet, the gay men's health center in the Castro.

"We need to create a safe space where partners, family members, and coworkers can come to a confidential meeting to talk about meth addiction," said Supervisor Bevan Dufty, who met with Ibarguen last month and is spearheading formation of the support group. "I am astounded how many people have said to me they have had a partner, coworker or family member addicted to crystal meth."

Dufty, who sits on the city's Mental Health Board, invited Ibarguen and substance abuse experts to the board's meeting May 12 to bring attention to the issue. Speaking before the board, Ibarguen said he blames crystal for the death of his partner.

"Crystal meth has no conscious whatsoever. It steals, it robs, it takes everything," he said. "It's been only two months since Neil passed away and I realized today how much my home has changed. My intimacy I had with Neil is all gone because of crystal meth."

In a letter given to members of the health board, Ibarguen detailed how Lewis's psychotic episodes would happen at 2, 3, or 4 in the morning.

"He often heard voices telling him he was in harm's way. Voices charging that neighbors were spying on him and that they had planted microchips in our apartment along with other paranoid type voices were common," wrote Ibarguen. "These voices would torment him immeasurably, day and night and despite anyone's insistence that they were not real, Neil believed them to be real."

At the prompting of Ibarguen, Lewis worked with a therapist in hopes of conquering his meth addiction. But fearful his drug abuse would cost him his reputation and nightclub gigs, Lewis kept his problems secret and refused to go to supportive groups based in the gay community.

"Neil was afraid he would



David Ibarguen and Neil Lewis

never work again. He worried he would never get another chance to play again. He was living in fear," said Ibarguen. "Neil was in so much emotional pain, psychotic and agitated. Neil just wanted the voices to stop."

In February, Lewis's psychosis became so overbearing that Ibarguen, after consulting with a therapist, turned to both police and the city's Mobile Crisis Unit for help. Both times Lewis was able to convince those responding he did not need to be hospitalized.

"When I begged them to take Neil to the hospital, I was told he did not meet the criteria," wrote Ibarguen.

Two days later, Ibarguen writes in the letter, he found his partner dead along with a ripped up photo of the couple. On the back, Lewis had written, "I'm sorry I wasn't strong enough to fight [the delusions.] I love you."

Dr. Robert Cabaj, the city's director of behavioral health services and co-chair of the mental health board, responded during the meeting that anyone in a severe delusional state should be admitted to either the hospital or psychiatric emergency services.

"It doesn't matter where the psychosis is coming from. If it is severe people should be assessed and brought in," he said.

With Lewis slipping in and out of his paranoid states, Ibarguen said at times it was hard to determine if he truly needed professional help. And the anguish involved in reaching such a decision can be paralyzing, he said.

"I lived with that for a year and a half but I didn't have the courage to put the person I loved in an institution. I sure would have done that now, knowing what I know now," he said. "It is really tragic we as a community have lost a lot of wonderful people to this drug. Neil's death was not necessary and could have been prevented."

Along with pushing city officials and the local gay community to tackle the issue, Dufty is calling on national gay leaders to form a working group on crystal meth. In March he sent a request to the leaders of five LGBT groups asking for their help.

"Meth can no longer be an accepted norm within the LGBT community and our national organizations have an important role in mobilizing our resources to advance federal policies and disseminate best practices for education and treatment," wrote Dufty.

Cheryl Jacques, president of the Human Rights Campaign, has expressed support for Dufty's idea and said it was discussed during an April retreat for leaders of na-

tional gay groups. Chuck Wolfe, president of the Gay and Lesbian Leadership Institute, also has embraced the idea and also brought up the matter at the retreat.

Dufty said this week he hopes to form the task force by July 1 and envisions using the Internet to hold meetings.

"Once you start the initiative you can feel the 'amens' come up and people come forward," he said.

With meth use now exploding on the East Coast, Oakland-based documentary filmmaker Todd Ahlberg has begun work on a film about meth. He launched a Web site this month, www.methfilm.com looking for people willing to be documented for the film. After receiving e-mails from partners of meth users, he said he is expanding the scope of the film to incorporate their stories as well.

"I started floating the idea out there with health educators and researchers and so forth. They all told me, 'you have got to do it. You have no idea how big this issue is,'" said Ahlberg, adding one partner of a meth user wrote, "I am at the point now that I have to push him out of my life. He is becoming dangerous."

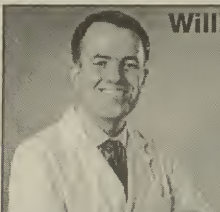
Such experiences are exactly why Ibarguen argues partners of meth users need resources of their own.

"We need to start a 24-hour hotline for family members and partners dealing with hard times," he said. ▽

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Serodivide

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positive men and are frightened of becoming positive and living with HIV.

"They haven't seen positive men like themselves. Without past knowledge of knowing people before, they were HIV-positive, and combined with fears of mortality, it is a powerful thing to want to segregate yourself into like camps," added Roe.

Along with men opting to serosort on their own, Roe said many social service agencies have aided the trend. "They have done an incredible job of serosorting people. You see programs for HIV-positive people or HIV-negative people but rarely do you see programs for both negative and positive."

Challenges

The lack of communication between men of different serostatus only adds to the difficulties serodiscordant couples face. And, while they can overcome HIV as a hurdle, they cannot vanquish it from the relationship.

"I still don't think he gets the whole scope of what it is to be positive," Chris Thomas said of his partner of five years, Lee, who is HIV-negative and asked that his last name not be used. Thomas, who has been positive for 14 years, said, "He doesn't know what it's like to be diagnosed with AIDS in 1999 and given two years to live. He uses the proverbial 'I could be hit by a bus tomorrow' but he is not on meds."

The two joke with each other that "You don't know what it is like being me," said Thomas, who

added, "in a sense there is some reality to that. He isn't able to comfort me in the same way that I think somebody who has been diagnosed could."

A spokesmodel for the San Diego "HIV Stops With Me" campaign, Thomas is the first person featured in the 4-year-old, seven-city campaign to be in a serodiscordant relationship. While taking part in a weekend retreat for the spokesmodels in San Francisco last weekend, he spoke with the *Bay Area Reporter* about how he and his partner have made their relationship work.

"We have done couples counseling many times. We just learned to live by the platinum rule: treat others the way they want to be treated," said Thomas, who turns 40 in June. "That takes communication."

Through their professional backgrounds, both men are familiar with how HIV is transmitted and how best to protect themselves. Lee worked at a pharmacy that specialized in HIV and participated in the VaxGen vaccine trial, which provided participants with HIV prevention counseling. Thomas, a recovering crystal meth addict, is a substance abuse counselor working exclusively with HIV-positive clients.

It also helps, he said, that their closest friends are also in a serodiscordant relationship of 10 years. Together, the positive men support each other, as do the negative men.

"It helps knowing them," said Thomas.

The couple has also accepted the sexual limitations that come with being serodiscordant.

"The sex has changed. We don't do anal sex anymore," said Thomas. "It is a sacrifice we are both willing to live with. We have learned other stuff to do that is fun."

Yet, Thomas admits if for some reason he were to break up with Lee, he likely would not go out with another negative man.

"I have had the thought that if this doesn't last I would want to be with someone who is positive. Solely for the emotional support," he said. "It's hard to understand why if I get a sore throat..." as he touches his glands with his hand "...you know?"

Harcourt and Roe said they also have had to set specific boundaries to their sex life in order to protect one another's health.

"He is very conscious of being safe. He doesn't want to infect anybody," said Harcourt of his partner. "I talk about this with my friends all the time. I set my rules very early in life and I haven't broken them. I don't have any anal sex without a condom either top or bottom."

The two are also friends with other serodiscordant couples and point to being knowledgeable about HIV as essential to making the relationship work. They also expect that is why their negative friends have been supportive of their being together.

"Knowledge is key to long life for a HIV-positive person and for protecting the life of your partner," said Roe. "[Our friends] know we are well informed with each other. They see us both as knowledgeable men who can get past the HIV apartheid divide."

Serosorting's risks

Rather than be concerned about serodiscordant couples, health officials say they are more alarmed with men who see serosorting as permission to engage in unsafe sex. Whether it be negative men putting themselves at risk for sexually transmitted diseases or HIV-positive men, who along with contracting STDs,

can become infected with drug-resistant strains of HIV, there are many risks involved with serosorting, contend health officials.

"The risk involved is akin to people who use the rhythm method for birth control. One of the risks is: are people truly HIV negative?" said Will Bland, the director of community programs at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. "Serosorting in and of itself does not totally take the place of people engaging in safer sex behavior. The assumption of 'We both say we are negative so we cannot use condoms' becomes a little faulty when they depend on serosorting alone to ensure they are not at risk."

Dr. Jeffrey Klausner, director of STD prevention with the San Francisco Department of Public Health, said serosorting "has no prevention effect for other STDs, particularly like syphilis, gonorrhea, chlamydia, and other viral STDs like herpes. People need to recognize that preventing HIV transmission is not the end all of sexual health. Getting diseases like syphilis is a bad thing."

One of the biggest problems with serosorting for negative men is it can be based on blind faith that the person they are with is truly negative. Whether it's people who refuse to honestly disclose their status, or men who refuse to get tested for HIV, there are few guarantees when it comes to negative men serosorting.

"The continued transmission of HIV is from HIV-positive men having sex with a negative man. The problem is some HIV-positive men don't know their status," said Klausner. "It is not all positive men but a small subset who don't know their status. There are men who know their status who are putting others at risk. It is a felony in the state of California for knowingly putting someone at risk for HIV transmission."

Unlike with positive men who are sure of their HIV status, Klausner said it is particularly risky for HIV-negative persons to serosort. "The HIV-negative status of their partner can never be truly known unless they have had a test in the past two weeks and have had no other sexual partners. There is always going to be the risk that someone who said he is HIV-negative can be truly infected," said Klausner.

Once HIV enters into a network of supposed negative serosorters, it can spread like wildfire, warns Willi McFarland, co-chief of the San Francisco AIDS Office's HIV/AIDS Statistics and Epidemiology section.

"If these are highly linked sexual networks then the second HIV gets into that network it can go very fast," he said. "It can be dangerous and people need to be cautious."

'Position sorters'

Along with serosorting, McFarland said researchers have noticed another phenomenon he calls "position sorting" or "strategic positioning." According to surveys of gay men, McFarland said negative men say they can be an unprotected top and positive men say they can be an unprotected bottom.

"In some surveys, when people are HIV-negative and know they have sex with someone positive, we are seeing a decline in negatives saying 'I knowingly have sex with positive guys and I was a bottom' but there is an increase in those who are a top," said McFarland. "People believe it is less likely to transmit in that position but it is not certain. We are also seeing people switching to unprotected oral sex instead of anal sex as another sexual strategy."

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House holds hearing on FMA

by Bob Roehr

The House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution held a hearing on language of the Federal Marriage Amendment that would ban same-sex marriage May 13 that saw proponents and opponents recycle arguments each had made previously.

Representative Marilyn Musgrave (R-Colorado), the lead sponsor of the FMA, defended it "only as the last resort." She claimed that "the Constitution of the United States of America is on the verge of being amended, the only choice is whether it is by the voters or the courts."

Robert Bork, the failed conservative nominee to the Supreme Court, echoed that sentiment. He asserted, "We are going to have a nationwide rule" on same-sex marriage, either because of the courts or enactment of the FMA.

He said the second sentence of

the FMA, which he helped draft, "was intended to say that the courts should not require civil unions, only legislatures can do that. ... We have no intention of trying to prevent any democratically enacted form of civil unions." He supported modifications that have been made to the Senate version of the FMA but not yet made to the House measure.

"The amendment has been wildly underdescribed," openly gay Congressman Barney Frank (D-Massachusetts) said as began his testimony before the committee. "This amendment says nobody in a state can enact same-sex marriage," not a judge, not the legislature, not the voters in a referendum, he said.

Frank reminded the committee of the "predictions that chaos will ensue" from social conservatives any time antidiscrimination measures are proposed. "None of those are ever true." Most explicitly, those predictions made prior to the enactment of civil unions

in Vermont have not come to pass.

Frank made his own predictions with the regard to the outcome of gay marriage in Massachusetts. "It will have an effect on those people who choose to get married, and it will have no effect on those people who choose not to."

"By this time next year, litigation will be in suit in most states challenging the constitutionality of the Defense of Marriage Act," predicted Jay Sekulow with the American Center for Law and Justice. "I would not like to let the institution of marriage rest upon the U.S. Supreme Court."

"Unless the court steps back, because it feels the public outrage, I think DOMA is an absolute dead letter on constitutional grounds," Bork said. "I suspect the vote against DOMA would be 6-3; I don't see any prospect of saving it."

Representative Jerrold Nadler (D-New York) pressed Bork on

the powers of the judiciary. Bork replied, "Of course judges will have the power to override legislation that is unconstitutional. The problem arises when judges begin to depart from the Constitution and make up their own idea of the Constitution."

Representative Spencer Bachus (R-Alabama) raised the latest conservative bugaboo, the cost of equality associated with same-sex marriage. He ticked off a list of federal benefits and said extending these to gay couples will "just break the bank. ... It will cost billions of dollars."

Musgrave said they haven't been able to have that discussion. Frank reminded the committee that Bork earlier had said he didn't believe that many gays would end up getting married, so the cost would be less. Furthermore, passing the FMA would preclude the debate that Musgrave claims she wants.

Representative Tammy Baldwin (D-Wisconsin), the only out

lesbian in Congress, told the story of a lesbian couple in Vermont raising a child named Trevor. One of the mothers stayed at home to care for the child. Then the working mom was struck and killed by a car. She asked, "What is the cost to Trevor that he can't collect Social Security benefits for a lost parent? We have to weigh those costs too."

Representative Tom Feeney (R-Florida) said he was concerned about judges making law. He asked, what is Congress' remedy for legislating from the bench?

"In the case of a blatantly unconstitutional decision, there is impeachment," said Frank. He continued, "This amendment is not a judicial restraint amendment, it's a specific subject amendment that says no one - no referendum, no state legislature - can allow same-sex marriage."

The committee will have at least two more hearings on the proposed amendment. ▼

Serodivide

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Such sexual practices could explain the city's rising rates of oral syphilis and pharyngeal gonorrhea - infections of the throat - said McFarland. It is also proof that developing appropriate safe sex messages is far more complex than telling men to just use condoms.

While serosorting has the obvious potential to stop the spread of HIV, it also can be stigmatizing and isolating to positive men. Nor can the concept be quickly summed up in a commercial sound bite or advertisement tag line. By promoting serosorting as an HIV reduction method, McFarland acknowledges health officials are walking on a slippery slope.

"We are not saying to put positive people on an island. We are talking about when condoms are used. Condom use is important when you know the people in the relationship are serodiscordant or in doubt," he said. "It is a complicated message we are trying to say. People need to be tuned in to your serostatus when not using a condom."

As for HIV-positive men who serosort, Klausner advised they need to be concerned about other

STDs, particularly syphilis. City health data has shown that more than 60 percent of the city's syphilis cases are positive men who are assumed to be serosorting. Syphilis not only poses increased risk for HIV transmission in negative men, but also poses unique health problems for positive men.

"We were the first agency to show that syphilis increases HIV viral load. People concerned about their viral load, which they should be for their own individual health, should know syphilis increases their viral load," said Klausner.

Moving away from browbeating gay men into using condoms, which many men who serosort refuse to wear, health officials instead are using new approaches to promote safer sex practices. Whereas the condom code spoke to individuals, the new messages try to encourage "a greater sense of community responsibility for sexual health" explained Klausner.

One example of this is referred to as "patient delivered partner therapy" and it is popping up in the most unlikely of places: sex parties. Called partner packs, these single doses of treatment for STDs are given to people who test

positive for syphilis who then distribute them to their sexual partners. Patients at City Clinic have been given the packets for years.

"It helps people get treated and breaks the cycle of transmission. It is a new tool we have added, particularly for syphilis," said Klausner. "Both providers and patients and the community need to be aware of this and support this because it is good public health."

When used by men at sex parties, the packs have the potential to prevent them from acquiring syphilis. In April, the promoters of a "positive men only" sex party

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Debating the principles of gay marriage

by Bob Roehr

Same-sex marriage got an erudite airing on May 17 at the libertarian Cato Institute in Washington, D.C.

Jonathan Rauch, the gay author of the new book *Gay Marriage: Why It is Good for Gays, Good for Straights, and Good for America*, praised the many strengths of the institution of marriage. "It's beyond me why conservatives would want [the

children of gay and lesbian couples] growing up in unmarried households."

"After 30 years of heterosexual flight from marriage, same-sex marriage is the first opportunity we have had in a generation to claw our way back up the slippery slope and reaffirm the nation's commitment to marriage as the gold standard, the model for committed relationships," he said.

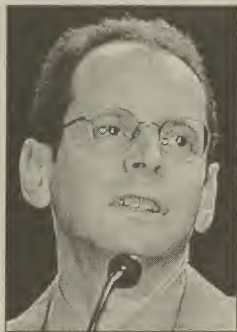
Rauch saw passage of a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage as guaranteeing, "that we

as a country will spend the next 20-30-50 years giving the benefits of marriage to non-marital relationships. We will invent all kinds of new relationships - domestic partnerships, civil unions - or to the extent that we do not do that, we will do something much worse, we will confer the benefits of marriage, the legal benefits and the social recognition, on cohabiting couples. That is a dreadful thing to do if you care about preserving the special standing of marriage."

He cited data from a March poll by the *Los Angeles Times* of people 18-29. "The young people of America today are much more hostile to what they perceive as discrimination than they are to either gay couples or to gay marriage." Precluding gays from participating in marriage "risks discrediting it in much the way that men-only clubs are discredited today."

Rauch compared social conservatives on gay marriage with the National Education Association on school vouchers. "They are unwilling to concede that there is any possible need for change. They avert their eyes from the plight of the unserved or the mis-served. They insist that reform can only entail hazards, and that no conceivable benefits could result. And they insist that even one experiment would be one too many."

His solution is to embrace federalism and allow the experiment of gay marriage to play out in a number of states "and then we will know." That requires a most difficult thing for politicians at the national level, to do "absolutely nothing."



Author Jonathan Rauch

Michael Greve, with the American Enterprise Institute, opposes the Federal Marriage Amendment as "an attempt to write social policy into the Constitution." He believes there is huge demand for marriage within the gay community and prohibition "won't settle anything."

He called the states "just the right scale ... to run this experiment in a sensible fashion." But he did see the need for a constitutional amendment of sorts - to affirm that there is nothing within the U.S. Constitution that guarantees the right to homosexual marriage, nor is there anything to force one state to recognize the marriage policies of another.

Greve compared the Supreme Court's 2003 *Lawrence* decision that struck down state sodomy laws and the 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* decision that struck down school segregation as unconstitutional and was aghast with both. America "looked to what they took to be the underlying moral message, not the legal niceties" and as a result "mowed down all of the stuff that protects limited government."

Genevieve Wood, the Family Research Council's spokeswoman, blamed activist courts for the problem of same-sex marriage. "There has not been a state in this union where same-sex marriage or

civil unions for that matter, were passed by the people at the ballot box or by the state legislature, unless the court got involved."

She ignored the fact that other advances, such as the end of legal segregation in America, were not exactly embraced by public referendum or state legislatures in places like Alabama but were imposed by the courts.

Wood trotted out the "slippery slope" argument that same-sex marriage would lead to polygamy. And she debunked the concept that states are laboratories of democracy to test out ideas, saying, "There were some states that liked the experiment of slavery." She believes there should be one national definition of marriage.

Cato legal scholar Roger Pilon asked how can one argue for a go-slow approach on gay marriage "if the Constitution indeed prohibits government discrimination? Why don't we just say so and get it over with?"

Greve responded, "It is not at all clear that an injunction against homosexual marriage is in fact discrimination, that is what is at issue."

Another audience member compared the debate of whether gay marriage is good for straight people with having a debate that focuses on whether welfare reform is good for rich people.

Rauch said marriage vows "are a promise to have and to hold from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish until death do you part. To take responsibility for another human being for life is the most noble and the least selfish promise that two people can make. Gay marriage is the end of gay liberation agenda; it is the start of the gay responsibility agenda."

He pushed for "the principle that everyone should have the opportunity to marry." ▼

A review of Rauch's book is in this week's arts section.



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Married couple

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were then ushered before Cambridge City Clerk Mary Drury who performed their brief wedding ceremony at 9:15 a.m. They would later learn that they were the first same-sex couple to be married in Massachusetts.

"We didn't intend for us to be first, it just happened," Kadish told the *B.A.R.* "We just wanted to be there early."

Despite their whirlwind marriage, the women weren't rushing into anything. They have been together for 18 years.

The couple spoke to the *B.A.R.* just before going to bed on Monday night, May 17, after a frenetic 24-hour period that catapulted them from their lives of anonymity to instant icons for gay mar-

riage rights. News cameras recorded their wedding and it was broadcast on newscasts around the world. The couple noted that a news crew from Japan was among the throng of media in attendance.

"There were 20 microphones in front of us," Kadish said.

"It was truly an amazing day," McCloskey added. "Not only to have our own love recognized on a stage but to witness the love other couples have for each other."

"It's just so amazing," echoed Kadish. "It's kind of unbelievable. But at the same time, it comes down to our commitment and love for each other."

The couple said that they hope gay marriage in Massachusetts will herald change nationwide.

"We hope that it continues to spread and work out in a positive way," Kadish said. ▼



David Goedeke and Thompson Hackett

David Goedeke and Thompson ("Buddy") Hackett were married in San Francisco's City Hall on Thursday, February 12 at 3:30 p.m. Mr. Hackett called Mr. Goedeke at work, saying, "Get in a

cab and meet me at the Van Ness entrance in one hour!" Both men arrived within 30 minutes. The excitement inside was overwhelming, they said.

Neither Mr. Goedeke nor Mr. Thompson imagined that when they woke up that morning, they would be married that afternoon. The men thanked Mayor Gavin Newsom and said they "partied with our 'say something hats' all night long."

The couple will hold their wedding reception in their new home in Guerneville in June as they have canceled their trip to Massachusetts.

"Our love to all the newlyweds," they said.

OBITUARIES

Buddhist AIDS Project co-founder Steven Peskind dies

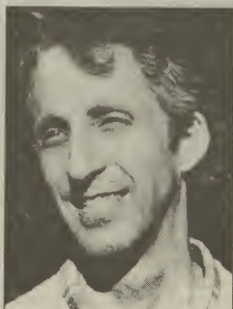
by Cynthia Laird

Steven J. Peskind, who was one of a handful of local gays and lesbians to meet with the Dalai Lama to discuss homosexuality and who co-founded the Buddhist AIDS Project, died May 6 in San Francisco. He was 46.

Mr. Peskind died at home of non-smokers lung cancer (adenocarcinoma), according to his long-time partner, Robert Hamilton.

In 1997, Mr. Peskind called on the Dalai Lama, the spiritual leader of the world's Buddhists, to clarify several contradictory statements the religious leader had made regarding homosexual sexual practices. In an open letter, Mr. Peskind said that "...many of us who so admired him were confused and distressed by the inconsistency of his statements and their worldwide ramifications," according to a posting Mr. Peskind made online several years ago.

In *Beyond Dogma*, (North Atlantic Press, 1996) the Dalai Lama indicated that homosexual sexual orientation is acceptable—but sex



Steven J. Peskind

with the mouth of anus, as well as masturbation, are "considered sexual misconduct," according to an April 17, 1997 *Bay Area Reporter* article by Dennis Conkin on the controversy.

That position contradicted earlier statements published in *Out* magazine, in which the religious leader was quoted as saying, "[I]f two males or two females voluntarily agree to have mutual satisfaction without further implications of harming others, then it is okay."

In his web posting, Mr. Peskind recalled the San Francisco meeting that took place on June 11, 1997. Only the day before, at a news conference, the Dalai Lama had said, "...from a Buddhist point of view, men-to-men and women-to-women is generally considered sexual misconduct. From society's point of view, mutually agreeable homosexual relations can be of mutual benefit, enjoyable, and harmless."

"The next morning in his diplomatic suite in the Fairmont, I asked him, 'If the Buddha is our teacher, where and when did he teach that homosexual partners are inappropriate, that homosexual behavior is misconduct?'" Mr. Peskind wrote. "The Dalai Lama candidly responded, 'I don't know.'"

Conkin told the *B.A.R.* that Mr. Peskind will be missed.

"He was very concerned about human rights, he was very concerned about human sexuality, and about gay people being accepted by the Buddhist community," Conkin said.

Mr. Peskind was active in the community in other ways as well.

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Bush: Need antigay marriage amendment

United Press International

President Bush reiterated his call for a constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage Monday, May 17 as the first gay couples were married in Massachusetts.

"I called on the Congress to pass, and to send to the states for ratification, an amendment to our Constitution defining and protecting marriage as a union of a man and a woman as husband and wife," the president said. "The need for that amendment is still urgent, and I repeat that call today."

Bush was speaking from Topeka, Kansas, where he was commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Supreme Court's *Brown v. Board of Education* decision that

banned segregation in the U.S. school system based on race.

"The sacred institution of marriage should not be redefined by a few activist judges," Bush said. Bush's statement came as churches in Massachusetts performed weddings for the country's first gay marriages.

Gay rights leaders immediately fired back.

Matt Foreman, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, said the president "sullied the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of *Brown v. Board of Education*" by renewing his support for a constitutional amendment barring same-sex marriage.

"Fortunately, the president's proposed amendment is dead on arrival in the U.S. Senate and he

knows it," Foreman said in a statement Monday. "The only reason for this renewed call for Congress to act is to continue to use the lives of committed same-sex couples to divide America for partisan gain."

Cheryl Jacques, president of the Human Rights Campaign, accused the president of attempting to divert attention from other issues.

"President Bush is trying to turn the camera away from the nation's foreign policy and economic problems," Jacques said in a statement. "President Bush is attempting to lead this nation into discrimination. We will not let him hurt our families." ▼

Cynthia Laird contributed to this report.

John Kerry

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same-sex marriage, although he says he favors civil unions that would provide equal benefits across the board.

"Obviously he has a different position on the marriage issue," said Trammell. "But I think everyone understands his positions are more favorable to our community than any other presidential candidate in history."

Yet when asked directly by the *Bay Area Reporter* if Kerry was opposed to gay marriage in name only, conference call participants had no answer, just the recitation of seemingly illogical reasoning that has become typical of the campaign.

"The senator is not for same-sex marriage, he is for civil unions," said Breslauer, who added that Kerry's civil unions would exist "in the broadest context," and that "states who adopt a civil union remedy, in John Kerry's vision, would adopt a full scope of federal benefits."

"There is a distinction," she added.

Elizabeth Birch, now LGBT fi-

nance co-chair of the Kerry campaign and former executive director of the Human Rights Campaign, pointed out that, "You cannot get elected president in this country in our time and be for same-sex marriage," but she did not address how it is that supporting same-sex civil unions with all the benefits of marriage is more palatable to the public.

Also not addressed was a *B.A.R.* question about Kerry's conditional support for an amendment to the Massachusetts Constitution banning gay marriage. The senator has come out against such an amendment at the federal level, but recently said that he, depending on the wording, could support such an amendment to the constitution in his home state. Kerry's campaign has noted that this position is in step with his long-held belief that states should decide marriage rights. However, Kerry opposed a proposed statewide amendment against gay marriage two years ago, signing a joint letter in opposition that stated, "We believe it would be a grave error for Massachusetts to enshrine in our Constitution a provision, which would have such a negative effect on so

many of our fellow residents."

Perhaps fittingly, Massachusetts began offering legal same-sex marriage this week, with the first couples marrying on Monday, May 17, and the gay-friendly presidential candidate, according to the *New York Times*, struggling with reporters' questions at a news conference last Friday about what he might say to the newlyweds.

"It's not my job to describe, you know, parceling out advice or saying things to people who make a decision that's very personal like that," Kerry reportedly said at a news conference, then "sputtered" according to the *Times*, when asked if he would offer congratulations to the couples.

"I want everybody to feel fulfilled and to be able to be happy and live their lives," Kerry reportedly concluded. "I happen to think there's way to do that respecting rights under the Constitution and also respecting traditional value that's attributed to marriage in this nation."

On Monday, Kerry was in Topeka, Kansas, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Supreme Court's *Brown v. Board of Education* decision that put an end to the notion of "separate but equal." ▼

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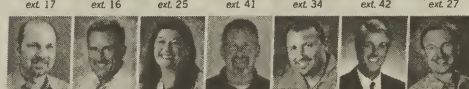
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Grappling with it

by Jim Provenzano

Freestyle wrestling – practiced at the Olympics, at Gay Games, and most open tournaments in America – has long been a private refuge for many athletes. Although the official season is over, Memorial Day weekend will see the Bay Area's Golden Gate Wrestling Club hosting groups of grapplers from several gay-inclusive teams.

With 17 clubs in North America, and more in Europe and Australia, wrestling in the GLBT community has enjoyed a growing reputation, but a selective inclusion.

What some initially think of as an elevated form of playing, are often surprised by the physical demands of the sport.

"Many gay men associate wrestling as a foreplay to a sexual encounter, or think it will lead it there," said Marc Lavik, 43, who runs East Coast Wrestling Club. His expansive Web site (www.east-coastwrestlingclub.org) offers links to all sorts of wrestling sites.

In a community where physical contact is usually implied in a sexual way, some gay men miss out on the tactile male bonding in sports like wrestling.

"Both straight and gay wrestlers share a fundamental ease with the body and with body contact," said Nick Zymaris of New York City's Metro Wrestling Club. "Two wrestlers can start putting each other into headlocks and going at it, even if the non-wrestlers around, gay and not, think it's weird."

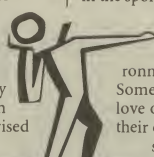
Zymaris likes the blend of qualities the sport provides. Like other clubs, at Metro, usually a team dinner follows a weekly or biweekly practice. Participants' ages range from early 20s up to 50s. A few women spar at some clubs, but usually more join up just before Gay Games, when membership numbers increase.

A stalwart of the wrestling community, coach Gene Dermody has helped San Francisco's Golden Gate Wrestling Club be-

come a model of diversity, tenacity, and financial stability that other clubs admire.

A former high school coach from New Jersey, "camaraderie, fun, family, support, and competition" keeps Dermody wrestling. "Being gay was always a non-issue for me, as a competitor or coach over the 35 years of my involvement."

Despite having been out since the earliest Gay Games, in the general wrestling community, he sees, "a sort of 'Don't Ask Don't Tell' policy" with the many gay athletes in the sport who aren't out.



Sports Complex

Does this make for a safer, or more ambiguous, environment for gay teenagers? Some wrestlers admit their love of the sport grew with their coming out. Others associate their first sexual desires with wrestling. For Zymaris, at 21, learning a freestyle submission style while living in Greece, one night of roughhousing with a close friend became sexual.

"Just the realization that for the first time we were touching each other in an erotic way, and that what I'd only fantasized about was taking place, was one of the best and most arousing things about that first-time encounter," he recalled.

Some adult wrestlers never associated their sexuality with wrestling. Roger Brigham wrestled as a lightweight at Ohio Wesleyan College.

He later coached wrestling in Alaska from 1977 to 1986. While out in his private life, with coaching, Brigham said, "I never made it an issue. I don't think anyone knew I was gay."

Visits to San Francisco led him to eventually move to the city, "not because you want to live everything gay," he said. "It's so that gay becomes a non-issue in your life." He now trains with Golden Gate.

Earlier this month, at the 71st annual Far Western Freestyle/Greco tournament, held at San Francisco's Riordan High School, Brigham, the lightest and oldest in the bracket, faced former San Francisco State University champion Cliff Lentz, 13

years his junior. Brigham lost that match, but earned a silver medal in his category.

This is just one of many open tournaments where gay wrestlers compete. While gay-inclusive clubs mostly focus on Gay Games and their own events, their groups also serve as a social outlet.

Some coaches have to remind novices that they don't run dating services, or encourage voyeurs – unless it's at a fundraiser. Seattle and San Francisco's clubs produce annual calendars, as well as T-shirts and other clothing. Several clubs offer demonstrations at street fairs and nightclubs. Golden Gate just held another beer benefit at the Eagle, bringing in over \$1,200. There's also a popular booth at the annual Folsom and Dore Alley street fairs.

But even with such sexy venues, there is a difference between real wrestling and the kinky presumptions.

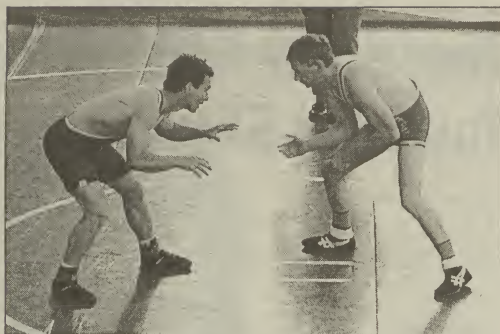
"Wrestling itself is not sexual for the competitor," explained Dermody. "It's impossible to become aroused if you are really fighting. For the observer, there are obvious visual cues that are suggestive; touching, domination, aggression. Thinking about actually wrestling, before or after a match, can be sexual."

Even before the Internet exploded with underground tapes and images of wrestlers in provocative positions, mailing groups, erotica, and personal experiences testify to a sexual mystique.

Said Dermody, "The observer or fan who never does it, has no idea what is going on, and creates a fetish, deprives himself of knowing the true nature of male bonding, which is far more of an aphrodisiac than any unrequited fetish."

Another fetish is a hyper-muscular burlesque of professional wrestling. While its "gay" characters turned out to be fake, an actual out Olympic wrestler hasn't appeared, either.

A part of the wrestling community – American gay-inclusive clubs are all dues-paying members of USA Wrestling, for insurance purposes – none have ever been turned down for membership. But few in amateur wrestling ac-



Golden Gate's Roger Brigham, right, at the recent Far Western tournament.

knowledge a gay presence.

Of his fellow athletes, who straddle social and sexual misconceptions, being visible yet invisible, Brigham said, "There's a tribal bond that transcends politics and sexuality."

Golden Gate's Memorial Day weekend tournament takes place at Glen Park Recreation Center May 28-30, with social events and parties at various locations. Cost is \$20. Current 2004 USA Wrestling membership required (available from GGWC for \$30).

A special extra night of wrestling at the Powerhouse bar will take place Friday, May 28. E-mail Johnny Almony at ptblup@pacbell.net, call Gene Dermody at (415) 821-2991, or visit www.ggwc.org.

All hands on deck

Interested in taking up sailing? The San Francisco Sailing Team will hold its next organizational meeting to prepare for Chicago's Gay Games VII on Thursday, June 3, from 7-9:30 p.m. at a member's

home in Pacific Heights.

The potluck dinner will be followed by a team discussion of old and new agenda items, including volunteers for shirts and sportswear coordinator, treasurer, and fund-raising committee.

"We're hoping a few people will step up to lead the club for the Chicago Gay Games," said Catharine Holland, who, along with Kip Darcy, will be retiring as the sailing team's co-representatives.

You don't have to own a yacht to join. The SF Sailing Team is open to all. "Many of our sailors had not sailed since they were kids," said Holland. "Others had sailed frequently, but never raced. We live up to the Gay Games philosophy of inclusiveness. There's a boat and team for everyone."

RSVP and note what you will bring, and to get the address, via e-mail to khsf1@hotmail.com or kipdarcy@aol.com, or call Katharine Holland at (415) 378-2697. For more info, join the online groups at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SFSailingTeam>. ▼

Steven Peskind

◀ previous page

He was a co-founder of Coming Home Hospice and Shanti (then known as the San Francisco Shanti Project), where he trained volunteers and co-facilitated the first support groups in the city for people living with AIDS and their families and friends.

He was also active in Southern California in the 1980s, where he worked as a health educator in Orange County and helped found Laguna Shanti in Laguna Beach.

Mr. Peskind was born in Chicago on September 27, 1951. He graduated with a bachelor of arts in psychology and Asian studies from Stanford University in 1978. Before completing his degree, in the early 1970s while at Stanford, he realized he was gay,

and often felt isolated and alone. He participated in Stanford's "Volunteers in Asia" program and taught English in Japan in the mid-1970s. Mr. Peskind found, however, that he could not be "gay" there, Hamilton wrote in an e-mail, as the gay culture was more closeted than it is today. Mr. Peskind returned to the Bay Area and got a job at Macy's, where he met Hamilton.

In addition to Hamilton, Mr. Peskind is survived by his mother, Frances Peskind, of Cleveland; and his sister, Jennifer Cochran, of Big Rapids, Michigan.

A memorial celebration is set for Sunday, June 13, from 2-5 p.m. at the Janet Pomeroy Center (formerly Recreation Center for the Handicapped), 207 Skyline Boulevard, in San Francisco. Hamilton has asked that the celebration be potluck cold foods. ▼

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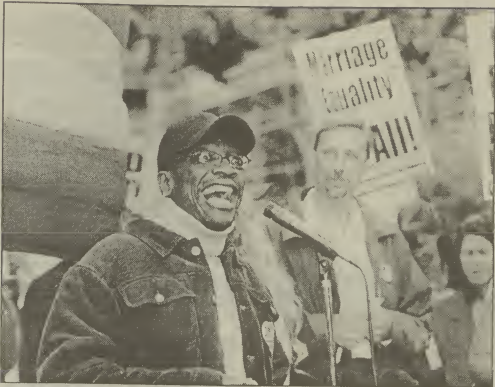
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CLASSIFIEDS



Calvin Gipson leads a spirited rally in San Francisco Civic Center Plaza as hundreds turned out Monday evening to support the beginning of same-sex marriages in Massachusetts.

Mass. weddings

◀ page 14

Clerks in at least three communities, Provincetown, Somerville, and Worcester, have said that they will not ask applicants their residency status. The organization that fought and won the battle for gay marriages in Massachusetts, Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, has cautioned that out-of-state couples who marry in the Bay State face a double legal obstacle. They may be forced to first prove that Massachusetts lawfully granted them a marriage license before arguing that their home state should recognize it. GLAD has suggested that out-of-state same-sex couples would be on firmer legal ground if they got married in Canada.

In San Francisco, Massachusetts gay marriages were celebrated on Monday with an early evening rally from Powell and Market streets to the Civic Center. Hundreds turned out for the event. "Equality yes, bigotry no. Homophobia has got to go," the crowd chanted along the way. The rally featured entertainer and San Francisco native Margaret Cho who traveled from Los Angeles to participate.

The celebration continued later Monday evening at a party, complete with wedding cake, at

the city's LGBT center.

The issuing of same-sex marriage licenses on May 17 coincides with the 50th anniversary of the historic *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling. That Supreme Court decision declared "separate but equal" segregated schools are unconstitutional. The parallel was not lost on gay marriage advocates.

"It doesn't take a leap of faith that gay and lesbian people should be granted civil rights," said McKay.

McKay and other California-based activists will turn their sights back to California next week. A hearing before the California Supreme Court over the legality of same sex marriages performed in San Francisco in February and March will be held on Tuesday, May 25.

The opposition also used the first day of Massachusetts' gay nuptials to rally support for its side. At a press conference in Sacramento, Randy Thomasson, a spokesman for Campaign for California Families, reminded reporters of the support Californians gave to the antigay marriage initiative, Proposition 22.

"Fortunately, the voters in California have already spoken," he said. "Four years ago, over 61 percent of voters have said that marriage is between a man and a woman in this state." ▼

Serodivide

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approached Frank Strona, an HIV prevention director and sex educator, and asked if the health department could come and test party attendees for STDs as well as hand out the partner packs.

Klausner agreed to send two of his STD outreach workers, both gay men, to the party. While not labeled a bareback party, men do engage in high-risk sex at the events, which is a cause of concern to health officials. By being on these men's premises it makes it easier to have a non-judgmental conversation with them about using better health strategies, said Strona.

"They did feel much safer having access to the partner pack," said Strona. "They did have sex without condoms that night but it made them feel more comfortable for not contracting syphilis."

"Really the initial idea is a very old style of prevention. How to do something in the meantime to take care of ourselves? It's one of those things where when questions came up they felt comfortable coming to me and asking, 'What do you think?'" added Strona.

Since the April party, outreach workers have attended one other sex party event. It is too soon to tell, though, what impact the

strategy will have on STD rates.

"We gave it a shot. We are waiting to see where it goes," said Strona.

Crossing the serodivide

Despite the concerns about serosorting, the SFAF's Bland said that anything that shows people are being mindful of ways to reduce their harm is a positive step that should be encouraged. But he said that the conversation needs to take the next step so there is an understanding of what was involved in people making these choices.

"What's been a little concerning is the greater number of people who don't talk about status at all," he said.

AIDS agencies can help, Bland said, by providing venues for men to talk to one another about what kinds of measures they can be doing to protect their sexual health.

"We don't have any programs specifically geared to people of a certain HIV status. We recognize there are some basic issues both negative and positive men face with dating, feeling isolated," he said.

Though he added, "It is good agencies are developing programs specific to positive men. It is also good for there to be venues where people can come together just as gay men. The HIV epidemic affects both positive and negative men." ▼

BAY AREA REPORTER CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE A-0275431-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Cable Rite 3221 20th St. San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a limited liability corporation signed Anthony Zabiti. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 04-01-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04-20-04.
APR. 29 MAY 6, 13, 20 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0275463-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Frisco SS Apparel 3016 26th St. San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Aldo DiGiulio. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 04-21-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04-21-04.
APR. 29 MAY 6, 13, 20 2004

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 04-541250

In the Matter of the Application of Zachary Montague Cohen for Change of Name. The application of Zachary Montague Cohen for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Zachary Montague Cohen has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Zach Cohen Winkler. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 27th day of May at 9:00am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
APR. 29 MAY 6, 13, 20 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0275531-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Saleema International Salon 2418 San Bruno Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94134. This business is conducted by a husband and wife signed Vincent A. Jones. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 04-23-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04-23-04.
APR. 29 MAY 6, 13, 20 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0275192-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Fuchno 3075 17th St. San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Vlad Good. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 04-08-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04-08-04.
APR. 29 MAY 6, 13, 20 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0275559-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Cottonland 2306 28th Avenue San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is conducted by a husband and wife signed Samuel Chew. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on n/a. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04-26-04.
MAY 6, 13, 20, 27 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-02754231-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Tonno Rosso 155 Steuart St. San Francisco, Ca. 94105. This business is conducted by a limited partnership signed Charles H. Pratt. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on n/a. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04-20-04.
MAY 6, 13, 20, 27 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0275523-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: AIDS Housing Alliance-SF 427 South Van Ness San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Brian Basinger. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 01-29-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04-23-04.
MAY 6, 13, 20, 27 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0275582-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Focalpoint Design Group 121 Bosworth St. San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Brian Dittmar. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 04-27-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04-27-04.
MAY 6, 13, 20, 27 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0275687-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Kamei Houseware & Restaurant Supplies 525 Clement St. San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Hung V. Tran. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on n/a. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04-29-04.
MAY 6, 13, 20, 27 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0275689-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Kamei Houseware & Restaurant Supplies 547 Clement St. San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Hung V. Tran. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on n/a. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04-29-04.
MAY 6, 13, 20, 27 2004

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 04-541319

In the Matter of the Application of Lewie Alan Gillian for Change of Name. The application of Lewie Alan Gillian for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Lewie Alan Gillian has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Lewis Alan Gillian. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 01st day of July at 9:00am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
May 6, 13, 20, 27 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0275653-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: ECDI Int'l (Eledyns Cons & Dev.) 435 Broadway St. San Francisco, Ca. 94133. This business is conducted by an individual signed Leonardo S. Cuevas. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 04-28-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04-28-04.
MAY 6, 13, 20, 27 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0275803-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Club Hong Kong 517 Clement St. San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jennings Louie Lew. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 05-01-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05-05-04.
MAY 13, 20, 27 JUNE 3 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0275839-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Bluestone Landscapes 203 Caselli St. San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Steve Coughran. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on n/a. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05-06-04.
MAY 13, 20, 27 JUNE 3 2004

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 04-541330

In the Matter of the Application of John Evensen Hall for Change of Name. The application of John Evensen Hall for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that John Evensen Hall has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Rebecca Lynne Hall. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 13th day of July at 9:00am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
MAY 13, 20, 27 JUNE 3 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0275944-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Ocean Wash & Dry 1306 Ocean Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Wu Zhao Zhao. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 04-27-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05-12-04.
MAY 20, 27 JUNE 3, 10 2004

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 04-541342

In the Matter of the Application of Mei Hwa Wu for Change of Name. The application of Mei Hwa Wu for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Mei Hwa Wu has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Wah Mei Young. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 15th day of July at 9:00am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
MAY 20, 27 JUNE 3, 10 2004

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: AMADOU F. FALL, YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: LORI SCHMELZER, AN INDIVIDUAL.

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A letter or phone call will not protect you; your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case.

If you do not file your Response on time, the court may make orders affecting your marriage, your property, and custody of your children. You may be ordered to pay support and attorney fees and costs. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the clerk for a fee waiver form. If you want legal advice, contact a lawyer immediately. There are other legal requirements.

You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may call an attorney referral service or legal aid office (listed in the phone book). The name and address of the court is: Superior Court of California 701 Ocean Street St. Santa Cruz, Ca. 95060. The name, address, and telephone number of the plaintiff's attorney or plaintiff without attorney is: Lori Schmelter in pro per 2520 Capitola Road Santa Cruz, Ca. 95062; (831) 462-4935.
MAY. 20, 27 JUNE 3, 10 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0276024-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Mei's Jewelry Gift Shop 638 Broadway San Francisco, Ca. 94133. This business is conducted by an individual signed Yuu, Hue Chi. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 05-14-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05-14-04.
MAY 20, 27 JUNE 3, 10 2004

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 04-541226

In the Matter of the Application of Sharon I. Joseph for Change of Name. The application of Sharon I. Joseph for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Sharon I. Joseph has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Turtle Dykcar Ultraviolet. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 29th day of June at 9:00am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
MAY. 20, 27 JUNE 3, 10 2004

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 04-541331

In the Matter of the Application of Chayne Lowell Rogers for Change of Name. The application of Chayne Lowell Rogers for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Chayne Lowell Rogers has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Jason Chaz Draven. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 8th day of July at 9:00am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
MAY 13, 20, 27 JUNE 3 2004



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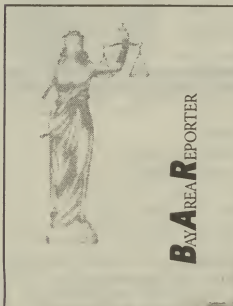
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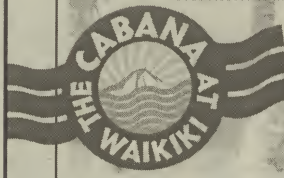
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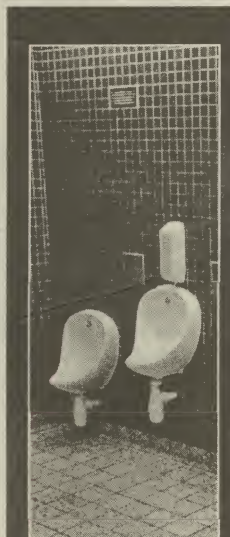
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REQUEST FOR BIDS - Solicitation No: 04-620-1FB-004

The San Francisco Housing Authority will receive sealed bids for
the Intercom System Replacement and Wall Repair Work at CAL 18(1),
JFK Towers, CAL 19(1), 990 Pacific Avenue; CAL 1-23, 1880 Pine Street;
CAL 1-28, 666 Ellis Street; CAL 1-29, 345 Arguello Blvd; CAL 1-31, 25 Sanchez Street;
CAL 1-32, 1750 Bush Street; CAL 1-35, 2698 California Street, located in San Francisco.

Contract Documents, including Drawings and Specifications are on file at San Francisco Housing
Authority's office located at 1815 Egbert Avenue, Suite 300, San Francisco, California, and
will be available for inspection or issuance on or after May 10, 2004.

A processing fee of \$35.00 (non-refundable) will be required for each set of documents. All pay-
ments must be in the form of CERTIFIED CHECK, CASHIERS CHECK, or COMPANY
CHECK payable to the SAN FRANCISCO HOUSING AUTHORITY. CASH OR PER-
SONAL CHECK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

On Tuesday, May 18, 2004, at 10:00 a.m., a site inspection will be held at the Housing De-
velopment. Prospective bidders will meet at 25 Sanchez Street, in San Francisco. A pre bid con-
ference will follow the site inspection to discuss any questions relating to this work.

Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. (PST) and read aloud on the date of May 25, 2004.
Questions regarding this solicitation for bids may be directed to Francis Eng, Senior Project
Manager, at (415) 715-3267.

Contract Brenda Moore at (415) 715-3170 for Contract Documents.

INVITATION FOR BIDS FOR EXTERIOR LEAD PAINT STABILIZATION - Solicita-
tion No: 04-620-1FB-009

The San Francisco Housing Authority will receive sealed bids for Exterior Painting and Lead
Paint Stabilization for 50 Buildings at Hunters View CAL 18(3).

On Tuesday May 18, 2004, at 10:00 AM, a site inspection will be held at the Housing Devel-
opment. Prospective bidders will meet at the basketball court at the end of West Point Road.

Responses are due 2:00 P.M. on Thursday, June 3, 2004. The IFB document is available at
the Authority's office at 1815 Egbert Avenue, San Francisco. A processing fee of \$50.00 (non-
refundable) will be required for each set of documents. All payments must be in the form of Cer-
tified Check, Cashiers Check, or Company Check payable to the San Francisco Housing Au-
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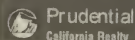

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in 1995, when Coors became the first major brewery in America to offer same-sex partner health benefits.

Many people have responded positively to these efforts. In 2001, we received the Colorado Human Rights Campaign Award. And we just received the highest score possible from the Human Rights Campaign—a perfect 100. So, while we're not perfect, we're clearly working hard to be a better company.

In other words, we got your message.

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Far from Hollywood

SF experimental filmmaker Michael Wallin's 'Black Sheep Boy' out on DVD.
page 43

Construction site

Pornsters REXX & Mecelli prove 'Stiff as a Board.'
page 40



Lady LuPone returns
Empire Plush Room
re-opens with Patti cakes.
page 31



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 34 • No. 21 • 20 May 2004

Contents under pressure

Hector Babenco's 'Carandiru' revisits Brazil

by David Lamble



Oscar-nominated Brazilian filmmaker Hector Babenco (*Kiss of the Spider Woman*) returns with *Carandiru*, an elaborate account of a real-life prison riot in Sao Paulo. It was an uprising that would become Brazil's Attica, an event in which 111 prisoners were shot by police under highly suspicious circumstances while no cops were injured.

Babenco notes, "There was not a real reason for this rebellion, or the attacks from the police. It was just different levels of insanity, rage and repressed anger. Inmates were fighting, and an irresponsible governor, to-

tally unaware of his responsibilities, sent orders to invade at any cost and suffocate the rebellion."

The film tells the story leading up to this tragedy from the perspective of the prison's doctor, recruited to help stem a raging HIV epidemic. The prison doctor's role is based on the experiences described in the book *Carandiru Station*, written by Babenco's own physician Drauzio Varella, who aided his recovery from non-Hodgkins lymphoma. "Since I was his patient and his friend, he was sending me pages by fax. And I kept telling him, 'Keep doing it.' Until one day I was cured, and there was a book in the bookshops. I decided to

make it into a movie because I liked his nonjudgmental attitude towards the prisoners. He's not interested in whether what the prisoners are telling him is true or a lie. He's just dealing with what he heard."

In *Carandiru*, as with most jails, the rules are set by the inmates, comprising a feisty swath of Brazil's criminal underclass, including a bevy of colorful queer characters. The men, contents under pressure waiting to explode, range in background from an audacious pimp involved with two women to a middle-class student caught for the revenge murder of a drug-runner.

page 32 ►

Real-life drama

Two new films in brief

by David Lamble

It *Kinda Scares Me* Tomer Heymann is the movie-star-handsome leader of an Israeli youth group who, as this engaging slice-of-life film begins, has a big problem. Hired to start a drama club for a group of feckless boys used to running wild through the streets of a rundown Tel Aviv suburb, Tomer finds himself unable to channel this gaggle of raging hormones. These aren't really bad kids: sure, they've experimented with pot and LSD, dropped out of school, and got into fights, but as the camera zooms around their frequently half-clad bodies, it's apparent there's not a psycho or a sadist in the bunch.

Feeling they need a kick in the butt

to jumpstart their adult lives and their Israeli Army service, Tomer decides on a little shock therapy and tells them he's gay. Stunned silence gives way to acceptance, the boys deciding that Tomer's okay and including him in their childish taunts and horseplay. Tomer's boys pour their hearts into individual monologues for a live performance for their village. Their unofficial leader, an overweight clown named Yakov, confesses to wrestling with the object of his jack-off reveries. Presented by the Jewish Film Festival, *It Kinda Scares Me* is a rare look at Israeli society not at war, including scenes of the boys partying with Tomer during Tel Aviv's Gay Day. Screens May 26, 7:30 p.m., Screening Room at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. Tickets and info: (415) 978-2787.

page 32 ►



From *It Kinda Scares Me*

SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

Jane Russell sings!

Screen legend to make like canary at Camp Castro

by Roberto Friedman

like big muscles, and red cor-
puscles, a great big hunk of a
man," sang movie star **Jane
Russell**, surrounded by a sea of
musclemen in *Gentlemen Prefer
Blondes*. Perhaps you remember
that scene, full of fencers and
gymnasts more intent on their
workout than her. Out There sec-
onds Jane's emotion, and is
pleased to announce that the
buxom bombshell herself will be
surrounded by a mob of fans
(musclebound or otherwise) on

Friday, July 23, live at the Castro
Theatre, as that jivecat impresario
Marc Huestis presents his latest
stellar showcase, *Ladies and Gen-
tlemen Prefer Jane Russell*.

The tribute will feature a live
on-stage interview, with superstar
Russell queer-ied by all-star Hat
Lady **Jan Wahl**. As an extra,
added San Francisco treat, Russell
will dust off her repertoire and
sing a special song for the gay-la.
"It's in her contract," the happy
Hostess confirms.

Ab fab **Matthew Martin** will
recreate Jane's campy number from
Blondes, hunks in tow. She'll be

joined by **Jordan L'Moore** playing
Lorelei Lee, and the two little girls
from Little Rock will fence
"Blondes Vs. Brunettes, The Ulti-
mate Beauty Smackdown Compe-
tition." Our bet's on the blondes.



Co-stars Marilyn and Jane

Climaxing the evening will be
the screening of *Gentlemen Prefer
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Seriously Fox

Fox television
was forced to apol-
ogize last week for
an "inappropriate" press release re-
its new reality TV special *Seriously,
Dude, I'm Gay*. The show, expected
to air in June, focuses on two
straight men who try to convince
various people that they're gay.

Washington Post TV columnist
Lisa de Moraes reported on the
furor over the release announcing
the show, which opened with the
line, "It's a heterosexual male's worst
nightmare: turning gay overnight."
The Fox p.r. also said contestants



Jane Russell with athletes in *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*.

would be judged by "a jury of their
queers." **GLAAD** criticized the ma-
terial as inflammatory and exploit-
ing "backward stereotypes."

Fox issued a revised version of the
release, stating, "We apologize for the
content of this morning's release.

Our failed attempt at humor
was ill-chosen and inap-
propriate. We sincerely
regret its distribution
and have attached an
edited version." The
tapes are being re-edited
as we speak.

"The fact the show
had to be re-edited after
heavy criticism of its
announcement is a
confirmation we
have every reason to
be concerned," said GLAAD En-
tertainment Media Director
Stephen Macias. OT believes
there is only one possible response
to the show's title claim: *Prove it*.

Press briefs

You could have knocked Out
There over with a goosedown
feather when we realized that the
spanking new men's underwear
model for **Calvin Klein** is none
other than Britain's Arsenal soccer



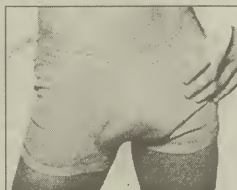
Arsenal star Freddie Ljungberg

star **Freddie Ljungberg**, whose
portrait in panties we've had smil-
ing down on us from our bull
board to these many months. We
know this is last-minute, but he's
making a personal (and we do
mean personal) appearance
tonight, we mean Thursday, May
20, from 5-6 p.m. at Macy's Union
Square, that's the Men's Store.

The international soccer stud
sensation will be here to celebrate
the latest men's Pro Stretch prod-
uct, and the masses will be there
to celebrate him in them. The next
day Ljungberg flies to New York to
co-host another important lin-
gerie event with fellow CK under-
wear model **Hilary Swank**. Ap-
parently boys don't cry, but they
do wear briefs.

Speaking of skivvies, don't
miss *Legal Briefs*, a playful under-
wear fashion show benefiting
AIDS Legal Referral Panel,
Wed., June 2 at the SFLGBT Com-
munity Center. It's part of ALRP's
campaign to recoup as much as
possible of a huge loss in **Ryan
White CARE Act** funds, for this
nonprofit which supplies free or
low-cost legal services for people

page 32 ►



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Braised in the church

'Southern Baptist Sissies' say amen at NCTC

by Richard Dodds

At one point in *Southern Baptist Sissies*, a homophobic character peers into the audience and asks if anyone has ever met a happy homosexual. In the universe that Del Shores depicts in his surprisingly complex play, the answer would have to be no.

The homosexuals in this Texas-set comedy drama are, variously, bitter, suicidal, alcoholic, in denial, or in a dress. But that's the point. "This is where we learned to hate ourselves," says the narrator, breaking into his memories of a service at the Landover Baptist Church. While the church folks point to miserable homosexuals as justification for condemnation, the playwright points to the church folks for laying the foundation of that misery.

Shores, best known for the movie made from his play *Sordid Lives*, juxtaposes Christian imagery and fire-and-brimstone beliefs with graphic gay encounters and camp sensibilities. It's a volatile mix that could make some audiences squirm — perhaps even more so than in Terrence McNally's famously hot-button play *Corpus Christi*. After all, you don't find too many plays in which Jesus is praised for his sexy swimmer's build.

A big hit in Los Angeles, *Southern Baptist Sissies* is having its Bay Area debut at New Conservatory Theatre Center, where director



Patrick O. Sanchez and David Fitzpatrick in *Southern Baptist Sissies*.

Clay David and his cast have done an admirable job of pulling together the various tones, time frames, and intersecting levels of

reality. With, for example, a light cue, a church service with a passionate preacher can become a gay

page 35 ►

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Fascinating lady

Patti LuPone plays the Plush

by Richard Dodds

Patti LuPone is famous for a powerful voice, but when she goes for the big notes, it's not always a thing of beauty. In a theater, and playing a character like Eva Peron or Norma Desmond, a jarring sound can serve the dramatic purpose. In a small club, it's not always as good.

But when LuPone is quietly delving into the emotions of a classic ballad, or taking on a swaggering novelty song, she makes wondrous connections. Fortunately, this is the mode for much of her one-hour show in what is now known as the Empire Plush Room. It's titled *The Lady with the Torch*, and LuPone knows her way to the heart of the melancholy side of love.

LuPone is the opening act in the refurbished cabaret, and it's a coup for the new owners. Dressed in a white blouse, long dark skirt, and lace gloves, LuPone arrives on stage without fuss. The between-song patter is brief and rehearsed. But in an unplanned encore after long applause, she offered a lovely a cappella rendition of "The Melody Lingers On."

LuPone told the audience that this is her first cabaret gig since she starred in *Evita* in the early 1980s. She has done a lot of theatre since then, and she knows how to explore a song as a mini-drama. LuPone's fascinating mouth adds just another facet to her one-of-a-kindness.

For me, the magic started on the fourth song, "A Cottage for



Patti LuPone is one of a kind.

Sale," that LuPone put across with a heart-piercing simplicity that made it like hearing the song for the first time. Both the soft and big sides of her voice made "Softly as in a Morning Sunrise" a memorable experience, and her rendition of the revenge song "I Wanna Be Around" was delectable.

The 16 songs that LuPone chose are an intriguing blend of rarely and seldom-performed standards, plus a few chestnuts. One thing they share is quality. That quality is usually enhanced when they are sung by LuPone. ▼

Patti LuPone will be at the Empire Plush Room through May 30. Tickets are \$55, plus a two-drink minimum. Call 885-2800 or go to empireplusherevents.com.

photo by Andy Mogg



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Filmmaker Hector Babenco directs Rodrigo Santoro (Lady Di) on the set of *Carandiru*.

Carandiru

◀ Arts cover

"You know almost all of the prisoners after two hours. I try not to manipulate these stories."

Babenco says despite the disaster at Carandiru, he believes Brazil has a good philosophy for running its prisons. "This is why the project attracted me so much. I liked the idea of shooting a movie in a real place where all the codes of the prison movies were broken. The prisoners are in command of the full operation, the warden is just a symbolic puppet-figure. In all Anglo-Saxon prisons, the ones we used to see in movies, prisoners have to wear uniforms, their hair shaved, they have planted on their chest a big number. In other words, society does everything possible to erase any trace from your own individuality. In Brazil, the system is already punishing you by taking you away from life,

putting you in a confined place, but society doesn't need or want to erase from you who you are. But in prison, you have to respect the unwritten codes, or you will be severely punished."

Cross-dressing diva

One of Brazil's hottest movie-star studs, Rodrigo Santoro, is quite convincing in the role of a charismatic cross-dressing prison diva. Babenco says none of the other prominent Brazilian actors he approached wanted to play an inmate. They were only interested in the role of the doctor. "Whereas Rodrigo offered to play a transvestite. He wanted to escape the obvious."

Babenco agreed with my assessment of several recent Brazilian films as depicting life in the raw, which he says is Brazilian reality.

"Brazil is a piece of Africa landed with Indians and Europeans. It's a civilization that grew up without religious guidance,

with no ethics whatsoever. The Portuguese who were the colonizers were just pirates, they didn't have any political ideology. Fortunately or unfortunately, the shadows of colonialism never arrived in Brazil. It was a very naive, a very fresh country. When you guys see movies like *Mango Yellow*, *Madam Sata* or my movie, you have to understand that what you're seeing is how it is. Nobody's trying to impress audiences. Brazilian morality is what you see in the movies."

Babenco concedes that *Carandiru* is a kind of accidental sequel to *Pixote*, his sensational 1980 film about homeless youth in Brazil. "I would say that *Carandiru* dialogues a lot with *Pixote*. They establish a good conversation, like the kids that left the institution in *Pixote* are the ones that end up in *Carandiru* 20 years later." ▼

Opens Friday.

Real life drama

◀ Arts cover

Facing Death Elisabeth Kubler-Ross is dying. Nearly four decades after her book *On Death and Dying* revolutionized therapy for terminally ill patients, the Swiss-born Kubler-Ross, partially paralyzed from a series of strokes, is

living in pain in a small pueblo in the Arizona desert. For years an angel of mercy to medical outcasts (dying children and AIDS patients), the famed psychologist is now faced with putting her own theories to their ultimate test.

A slight smile crinkles over her wrinkled brow as Kubler-Ross confesses to "wanting to meet Gandhi on the other side." Stefan Haupt's

biopic recalls how scandalous Kubler-Ross' theories on death were once thought to be, and how her efforts to establish a care facility for children with AIDS in Virginia was greeted first by hostility and then arson. A moving journey only slightly marred by an officious narration, *Facing Death* receives its San Francisco premiere May 23-25 at the Red Vic. redvicmoviehouse.com ▼

Out There

◀ page 30

with HIV/AIDS.

Pony up the suggested donation (\$25-\$1,000) and join Mistress & Master of Ceremonies Donna Sachet and Supervisor Tom Ammiano as they present a bevy of beautiful personalities stripped down to their undies, all for a good cause. Info at (415) 701-1200 x301 or jim@alrp.org.

Belle of the ball

Television celebrity Dan Renzi of MTV's *Real World: Miami* stars in a short at this year's Frameline film festival, *Waiting for the Ball to Drop*, in the annual *Fun in Boys Shorts* program. In *Ball*, he makes out with two guys in 10 minutes, but Renzi's private life is apparently just as fun-filled. On an especially festive Cinco de Mayo, he was arrested for indecent exposure at a Kansas City, Missouri adult-movie theater while watching the porn flick *Prickteasers from Hell*.

Renzi described the incident at the Strand theater in his home-

town as "the liberation of my zipper" (*Advocate.com*): shades of "wardrobe malfunction!" He found himself caught with his pants down in a vice-sting operation and was arrested along with a few other men.

"Who doesn't get horny and watch porn when they get a little drunk?" asked Renzi, 29, we assume rhetorically. Renzi joins boldface names George Michael, Paul Reubens, and country singer Ty Herndon as that rare breed of celebs caught jerking off in a gay grindhouse. But what's really important is his review of *Prickteasers from Hell*, a title which we love saying. It's succinct but telling: "They had great butts."

Similarly, rock star Morrissey reviewed *American Idol* for *Entertainment Weekly* pithily as "an easy target." *Idol* contestants are "really just very simple children who are manipulated by truly awful grown-up people," said Moz. "But I certainly think Britney Spears is the devil. The way she projects herself, and the fact that she is so obviously vacuous. I think it's such a shame that she became so

influential to very small children."

Who's who

Finally, it's time for a brand-new Out There game, *Who Am I?*, in which you, the reader, guess the celebrity personality!

First up is this little gem gleaned from Boston.com: "In 1971, the handsome young US Navy veteran John Kerry was establishing himself as a leading foe of the Vietnam War. That same year, another charismatic, well-born Navy vet emerged from the ranks to speak out on the public stage in favor of the war. Who was this young anti-Kerry? None other than the future bestselling gay novelist..." Who am I?

Then, in the currently-airing *much* amusing *Oakland A's* commercial, I'm the big, beefy stud bending over to pick up the rosin bag when girls start squealing deliciously from the far bleachers. So I do it three or four more times, and finally my teammate Zito, also a tasty dish of prime beef, comes over exasperated and snatches the rosin bag out of my hand. Who am I? ▼

THEATRE

Gay family values

NCTC 2004-05 season is announced

by Richard Dodds

The New Conservatory Theatre Center has announced the 10 shows that will make up its 10th anniversary Pride Season of gay-oriented plays. Included are one world premiere, two US premieres, and three Bay Area premieres.

NCTC Artistic Director Ed Decker has dubbed the season *We Are Family*. In addition to the family matters with which many of the entries deal, Decker said he borrowed the title from the Sister Sledge song to acknowledge hopes both realized and unfulfilled in the years since the song became one of the post-Stonewall anthems of liberation.

"Thirty years later," Decker said, "the tune still plays in my head and continues to conjure hopeful images of great things ahead for the gay community. As America struggles to further recognize gay civil rights, I can't think of a more fitting theme for Pride Season 10."

Season subscriptions are \$120-\$280 and are available now by calling 861-8972 or at nctcsf.org. Here's a look at NCTC's 2004-05 season.

Breakfast with Scot (Aug. 6-Sept. 12) is a world premiere by Michael Downing based on his novel. Commissioned by NCTC (and delayed from the current season), it follows the travails of a



Patrick Michael Dukeman and Trauma Flintstone return in *Whoop-Dee-Do!*

gay couple when the 11-year-old boy they are rearing turns out to be a budding queen.

Sex and Mayhem (Sept. 17-Oct. 10), written and performed by Donald Currie, provides a fast-paced insider's look at gay life in San Francisco from the 1950s to the present. Original music by Don Seaver.

Pageant (Sept. 10-Oct. 17) is the 1991 off-Broadway satire of beauty contests in which audiences choose who will be crowned Miss Glamouress. The twist: It's an all-male cast.

Significant Others (Nov. 5-Dec. 12) is made up of five one-act plays by SF playwright Tom W. Kelly that celebrate romance between men. Two of the pieces are

world premieres.

Oy Vey in a Manger (Nov. 24-Dec. 31) is a revised version of the off-kilter holiday entertainment that the Kinsey Sicks premiered last year.

Mambo Italiano (Jan. 14-Feb. 20) is Steve Galluccio's comedy about a young man coming out to his tradition-bound Italian family in Canada, and their efforts to turn him straight. The play is the basis of the recent movie of the same name.

Rescue and Recovery (Jan. 28-March 6) tells the story of a couple who amicably divorced when the husband realized he was gay, and the ex-wife's current efforts to convince her former spouse that his hot young



Mambo playwright Steve Galluccio

boyfriend is the wrong guy. Billed as an erotic comedy, this is the West Coast premiere of Steve Murray's play.

Shooting Stage (April 1-May 8) is a dark drama by Canadian playwright Michael Lewis MacLennan that centers on a nude photograph taken 20 years ago and the ramifications when it resurfaces in an obscenity trial. A US premiere.

Whoop-Dee-Do! (May 13-June 25, 2005) is a collage of songs and sketches by numerous authors and pulled together by the late Howard Crabtree. Patrick Michael Dukeman and Trauma Flintstone, who starred in Crabtree's *When Pigs Fly* at NCTC, will head the cast.

What's Wrong with Angry (June 3-July 10, 2005) is a teenage coming-of-age story in which the seemingly straight BMOC finds himself attracted to the high school's openly gay student. Patrick Wilde's play was retitled *Get Real* when it was turned into a movie. ▼

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Secrets and lies: May sweeps through

by Victoria A. Brownworth

Troy may be the city to take at the box office this week, but it's Washington that's up for grabs outside the theaters, as TV showed us with one new scandalous revelation after another about the Bush Administration, the Pentagon and the war on Iraq. We like an action-packed, slammin' sweeps month as much as the next TV devotee, but this May has made *The Day After Tomorrow* look like the proverbial walk in the park.

What hasn't happened on TV in the past two weeks? Washington and the world have descended to the seventh circle of Hell, courtesy of the Administration, making the evening news look like a cross between a gruesome action flick and hard-core S/M porn. Meanwhile, a host of programs we really enjoyed have bid adieu to their TV audiences.

Friends and *Frasier* ended their illustrious decade-long runs on NBC as two of the highest-rated sitcoms in TV history, with sweet, poignant and still very funny finales proving that it's better to leave while one is still in love. *The Practice* ended its eight-season run just as it was getting good again. The introduction of James Spader to the cast this season was pure genius. His superb turn as the sexy/sleazy Alan Shore managed to pull the rest of the once-fine cast out of its two-season slump and made *Practice* a can't-miss show once again. The final episodes with William Shatner

and Rebecca DeMornay were fabulous. We were sorry to see it end, and even sorer to see former star Dylan McDermott brought back for the final episodes sporting one of the ugliest beards in the history of show business. What a sin to hide such a pretty face behind something that looks like part of a six-year-old's Halloween costume.

We were also sorry to see Jerry Orbach, the tough-talking, wise-cracking staple of the original *Law & Order*, bid farewell in the show's season finale. Who could possibly take Orbach's place? As one of the show's longest-running characters, Orbach has created a center in the episodic drama and helped keep it good.

Dennis Franz is another character actor who stands out among a solid ensemble cast at *NYPD Blue*. Franz did Emmy work this season; if you stopped watching last season, catch the reruns this summer, the show has improved immensely. Lots of queer-themed episodes and (as if there aren't enough of these on the news every night) moral quandaries.

Wrangle room

The *ER* season finale left the door open for half the cast to leave. It also found *ER* head honcho and lesbian mother Kerry Weaver (Laura Innes) in court fighting for custody of the son she had with her wife, Sandy Lopez (Lisa Vidal), a firefighter EMT killed in a building collapse several episodes back. Sandy's religious Latino family never accepted her lesbianism nor her relationship with Kerry, and wrangled custody of the couple's son.

In the season finale, Kerry's attorney warned her that the judge was conservative and not to rock the boat. But the normally unemotional and hard-bitten Kerry could not let the proceeding end without an uncharacteristically impassioned speech in which she told the judge how she and Sandy were a family, they still were a family, and this boy was her son, her son with her wife. It was all the more moving for our knowing that this kind of thing goes on every day in America.

On the soaps, May sweeps launch the summer's hot stories, and it looks like *All My Children* is moving into its third season of keeping its lesbian character, Bianca (Emmy-nominated Eden Riegel), front-burner. Bianca's lover Lena had to leave this week to take her dying mother back to Poland (Olga Sosnovska has taken a role in the hit British drama *M1*), which led to an emotionally fraught goodbye between the two women (with more kissing) as they pledged their love to each other and Lena gave Bianca a ring. But the door was barely shut on Lena when Maggie (Elizabeth Hendrickson) walked in and reminded Bianca that "you still have me." First Bianca had no lover, now she has two women vying for her affections. Bianca's lesbian character has truly entered the soap continuum where romantic triangles are the norm. The space devoted to Bianca on the show and in the soap magazines is extraordinary, comparable to

straight soap ingenues. ABC seems totally committed to Bianca, and to treating her as if she were any other soap character instead of the only dyke on daytime.

Of course, reality TV is also set for sweeps, and there have been quite a few stunners in the past week. One show to look for in rerun is *Oprah's* amazing show on transgendered kids. When we say kids, we mean the prepubescent set. We have always given Oprah her due; this woman has done more to change American perceptions and open American minds than perhaps anyone except Martin Luther King, Jr. Unlike King, Oprah has had a much broader canvas.

This show, featuring a 12-year-old girl now living as a boy and a nine-year-old girl who has been living as a boy since she was six and on the verge of suicide, as well as a five-year-old boy desperate to be a girl, was extraordinary. It showcased Oprah at her very life-saving, life-altering best. In the course of that hour, the audience witnessed one father come to a stunning realization about his child. The African-American dad of the five-year-old boy, who had already begun tucking his penis between his legs to look more like a girl, in listening to the stories of other children on the verge of suicide, went from being adamant that if his son just played with footballs instead of dolls he would be "normal" to wanting to go out and buy the child dolls after the show. As he declared after hearing the other children and their parents tell their stories, "My child's life is what's most important."

Remote control

On the fluffier side, our favorite reality finale was *Survivor All Stars*, undoubtedly the best *Survivor* since the first. As we predicted, Amber was the winner, and in a surprise twist, *Survivor* fave Rupert got a second million. This remains one of the best reality shows because it has everything a fictional drama has: action, plot, character. It also has the beauty and scope of a *National Geographic* special, as the show finds incredibly gorgeous yet remote, difficult spots in which to film. Producer/creator Mark Burnett knows reality. Come September, the show heads back to the South Pacific and an island known for cannibalism.

As sweeps swept through, we noticed that some dramas — the L&O franchise, *The Practice*, *Without a Trace*, *ER*, *NYPD Blue*, ABC soap *One Life to Live* — made pointed references to the war on Iraq, none of them favorable. Given events of recent weeks, perhaps this sort of commentary inserted into fictional TV shouldn't shock us, but most TV shows make a conscious effort to remain politically neutral, so as not to offend viewers on either side of a particular political divide, which the war has certainly been.

Without *60 Minutes II* forcing the issue over Abu Ghraib by refusing to pull its story on the torture at the Iraqi prison as the Pentagon requested, one wonders if the scandal would have come to light. *60 Mins* has long been known for hard-hitting investigative reporting of the sort the other newsmagazines seem to have for-

next page ►

VIDEO

From Broadway to Hollywood

Call Ethel Merman 'Madam' on DVD

by Tavo Amador

Although Ethel Merman (1908-84) made several movies, she rarely got the chance to repeat her Broadway successes on the screen. She did star in the film version of *Anything Goes* ('36), but it was really a vehicle for Bing Crosby. She lost *Panama Hattie* ('42) to Ann Sothern, *Girl Crazy* ('43) to Judy Garland, *Dubarry Was a Lady* ('43) to Lucille Ball, *Something for the Boys* ('44) to Vivian Blaine, *Annie Get Your Gun* ('50) to Betty Hutton, and *Gypsy* ('62) to Rosalind Russell. Irving Berlin's *Call Me Madam* ('53) is the major exception and has recently been released on DVD.

Set in 1951 during the last year of Harry Truman's Presidency, the thin plot was inspired by his appointment of Washington hostess and fundraiser Perle Mesta as American Ambassador to Luxembourg. Like the real Mesta, Sally Adams (Merman) is a widow and daughter of an Oklahoma farmer who discovered oil. She is brash, gives great parties, and has lots of cash to help with political campaigns. As she announces in her first number, "I'm the Hostess With the Mostes" on the Ball."

Sally and her Press Aide Kenneth (Donald O'Connor) arrive in fictional Lichtenberg, where her American directness and ignorance of diplomatic protocol unnerve the embassy's Charge D'Affaires (a very gay Billy DeWolfe). Sally is wooed by Lichtenbergian



ministers, who hope for a "loan" from the US. She falls for suave Cosmo Constantine, the Foreign Minister (George Sanders), who doesn't want to borrow money for his country. Kenneth meets Maria, the Princess Royal (Vera-Ellen), and they fall in love, but she is engaged to a Prince (Helmut Dantine). Their marriage depends on her dowry, and that depends on the American loan.

Sally and Cosmo have a misunderstanding, but it's not giving away much to say that all complications are resolved by the last scene. Berlin's score includes the deservedly celebrated "You're Just in Love" duet between Sally and Kenneth. Merman and O'Connor blend their voices effectively — and if she doesn't exactly tone it down, she doesn't blast him off the planet, either. The number is reprised a couple of times. She

also has a solo, Berlin's "International Rag," which she delivers with her trademark enthusiasm.

Wasp waists

O'Connor and the tiny-waisted Vera-Ellen dance effectively together — his footwork was underrated, and she was one of the best of the Hollywood hoofers. Their "It's a Lovely Day Today" number is well done. Sanders displays a warm baritone, although he sings as though he were in a Victor Herbert operetta.

At various times, Sally gets a call from Harry, and there are topical jokes about First Daughter Margaret Truman's classical piano-playing and her poor reviews. Other political smiles come from references to American loans never having to be repaid.

Walter Lang's direction is uninspired, and Merman is seldom seen in close-up, but she's the reason to watch the movie and makes it worthwhile. Irene Sharaff's costumes are the epitome of '50s elegance and would be perfect for San Francisco Imperial Court ceremonies. Robert Alton staged the musical numbers. Vera-Ellen has a dance surrounded by local peasant boys whose costumes were clearly inspired by Breughel the Younger. Merman's performance earned her a Golden Globe Award, and the picture's scoring won an Oscar. The film was a hit, and Merman and O'Connor reunited the next year for *There's No Business Like Show Business*. ▼

Sissies

◀ page 31

bar with a nearly naked go-go boy equally hard at work.

The four sissies of the title were childhood friends raised in the church, terrified of going to hell, and each struggling with the knowledge that somehow they are different from the other boys. Mark (a confidant Scott Cox), who has grown up to be the angry narrator, is the most sexually aggressive of the boys, and his sleepovers with his buddy T.J. (the sexually conflicted David Kirkpatrick) turn into sexual encounters that leave him in love and T.J. in guilt-

ridden denial.

Another friend, Andrew (a believably anguished Elias Escobedo) is undone when his mother discovers his hidden *Playgirl* magazine, while Benny (sensitive played by Patrick O. Sanchez), who never had a chance at hiding his sissiness, becomes a drag performer named Iona Traylor.

Providing a kind of bittersweet comic relief are the interspersed scenes of a couple of middle-aged barflies. There's the overweight queen named Peanut (the hilariously on-target Richard Ryan) and a fading fag hag named Odette (a wonderful J.R. Orlando), who suck back drinks and exchange their comically sad stories.

Rich Dwyer plays the preacher and Catherine Roloff various mothers with more dimensions that you might expect, and an ensemble of five hymn-singers helps fill the pews.

Southern Baptist Sissies is a lightweight title for a play that isn't afraid of going into some darker places. When it ends on a hopeful note, the evidence presented suggests this may be wishful thinking. ▼

Southern Baptist Sissies will run through July 11 at New Conservatory Theatre Center. Tickets are \$18-\$28. Call 861-8972 or go to nctcsf.org.

Lavender Tube

◀ previous page

gotten. Even as Donald Rumsfeld was touring Abu Ghraib on a surprise visit last week, *60 Mins* II was at it again, revealing (in direct contradiction to assertions by the Pentagon and Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Richard Myers) that Abu Ghraib and the seven servicemen and women charged in those incidents were not an aberration, not a "few bad apples."

Dan Rather interviewed a series of other military personnel who were court-martialed for abuses at a prisoner-of-war camp outside Baghdad, and showed a video diary by one of the young women prison guards there of both the abuses and the attitude of those working at the camp.

CBS also aired the first interview with Pvt. Lynndie England, the 21-year-old West Virginian at the other end of the leash attached to an Iraqi prisoner. England took the Nuremberg defense, she was just following orders.

One wonders what Alan Dershowitz's excuse is for his support of torture as a viable tool in the war on terror. Dershowitz appeared on *Nightline* the other night as the pro-torture guest against Ariel Dorfman, who proclaimed, rightly, that torture is always wrong.

Then there was the videotape of the beheading of Nicholas Berg and the White House spin about his terrorist connections. There were none, but when John Ashcroft gave a halting, inarticulate denial to the media on May 14, it sounded more like an in-

dictment than an exoneration. All of which shows how important TV is in times like these, especially when shows like *60 Minutes* and *Nightline* investigate what no one wants investigated.

Finally, *The West Wing*, another show that has come back from the dead this season, gave us our quote of the week. After a terrorist bombing in Gaza which killed President Bartlet's (Martin Sheen) own version of Richard Myers, Bartlet went to give condolences to Admiral FitzWallace's wife. He said, as we have heard President Bush say so many times since 9-11, "The people who did this will be brought to justice, I promise you." To which Mrs. FitzWallace replied softly, "Don't promise that — I know the world."

These are very dark times, dear readers. Stay tuned. ▼

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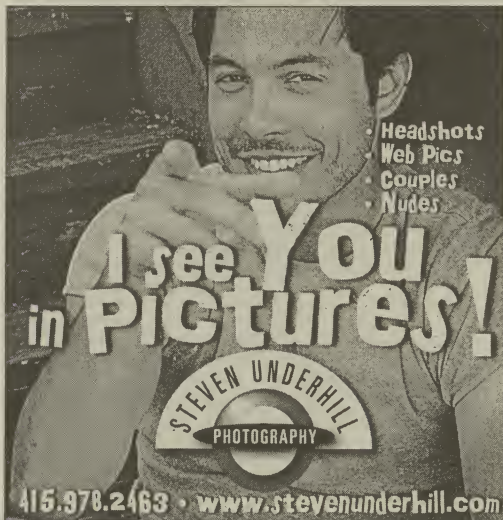
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OUT & ABOUT



Playwright Jeffrey Hartgraves unveils *Caught in the wwWEB* at the Jon Sims Center for the Arts. See Saturday.

Calendare by Mark Mardon

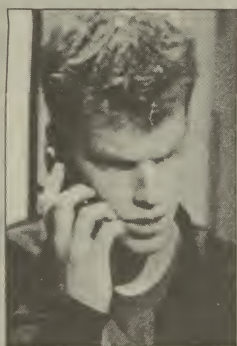
SUTN on UPN 44

What are you doing this Saturday night/Sunday morning at 1 a.m.? If you're anywhere near a television, be sure to check out *Seriously Unusual Television Network (SUTN)* on UPN 44 — Bay Area Cable 12 for a close-up look at an hour-long comedy/music broadcast not unlike *Saturday Night Live*, yet produced in San Francisco and orchestrated with the same manic energy and sharp precision. *SUTN* (www.sutn.com) offers biting satire, much buffoonery, a super house band, stellar guest bands, and an array of characters generating non-stop laughs in ensemble comedy skits and standup acts.

My rock star buddy Moon Trent and I attended the latest videotaping in the sizeable UPN 44 studio in North Beach, where we and a hundred or so other audience members were treated to a lively show orchestrated behind the scenes by Executive Producers Amy Connors and Darren Home, with a little help from my other rock-star pal, Bill Buck, as the Floor Manager. The acting/comedy ensemble consisted of Amy Connors, Angie Higgins, Devon Lee Grover (gaydar alert!), Joe "Chuck" Pfeffer, Linda Bulgo, Marcus Osborne, Paul Trask, Rachel Warner, Tom Dragt and Eric Toms (straight-but-sensitive hunk alert!). You likely haven't heard of any of them yet, but take Moon's word for it: All are on their way to superstardom. As cameras moved back and forth between skits and live music, Moon was everybody's biggest fan, and his enthusiasm was genuine. He practically screamed when he realized the guest band were Nashville country musicians Billy Falcon (www.BillyFalcon.com) and his daughter Rose (www.RoseFalcon-Friends.com), singing some of his favorite songs.

The house band did a slick job of livening up the show, playing with the kind of verve and smarts we late-night-TV aficionados have come to expect, with Steven Crain on bass guitar; Heather Courtney on lead vocals; DB Walker on lead guitarist; and veteran SF-musician Kenny Schick on sax, flute, guitar and vocals.

While one skit bombed because it had too many hooting drunk ornithologists, the rest got huge laughs, especially a bit involving a dopey shop teacher, a New Age busybody, gobs of white glue, sticky paper, and a popped eyeball. All the comics were wonderful throughout, but what caught Moon's and my attention the most was the super sexy, wonderfully comic young Eric Toms, who started his comedy career at The SUTN Comedy Network's live theater main stage at Big Lil's Comedy Cabaret in San Jose, where SUTN originated in 1999 and ran for 80 shows before moving first to KRON TV-4 and now to its more expansive home at UPN 44. In this Saturday night's show, you'll see Toms in a stand-up piece musing on how he has to work so hard to get women to notice him, yet when he entered a gay bar that one time with his gay friends, suddenly guys were hitting on him right and left — and damn if that didn't feel fine! He's straight though. You bet. :-)



SUTN heartthrob Eric Toms.

Fri 21

Groove in the Grove @ Nat'l AIDS Memorial Grove

The National AIDS Memorial Grove in Golden Gate Park presents its spring fundraising gala, *Groove in the Grove*. Roberta Gonzales of CBS 5 Eyewitness News will emcee the evening's activities, which include a silent auction and performances by Lori Carsillo and the Nick Rossi Set, and featured performer Spencer Day, the talented singer, songwriter, and pianist. The event will be held under a tent erected for the occasion in The Meadow at the seven-acre site. \$150 per person. 7-11pm. Tix/info: 415-750-8340; www.aidsmemorial.org

The End @ NCTC

The New Conservatory Theatre Center presents the first of a four-show summer "In Concert Series," opening with a workshop production of *The End*, with lyrics by Tony Award-winning George Furth (*Company*; *Merrily We Roll Along*) and music by Broadway composer/arranger Doug Katzaros (*The Rocky Horror Show*; *Footloose*). Mike Ward is stage director and Michael O'Dell is music director. Spend an evening with three savvy, brassy, classy women (singer/factors Jen McDeerman, China Crawford, and Delirio Green) in a musical revue exploring the horrifying end of relationships. The three women's stories unfold through the lyrics as they move through the familiar and not-so-familiar range of emotions that accompany romantic breakups. With the women are three band members (John Byrd, Michael O'Dell and Jim Donahue) and a music director. About halfway through the revue, there is a surprise twist — not to be revealed in advance! \$20. May 21-June 26 (no show June 6), Fri. & Sat. 8pm; Sun. 3pm. NCTC, 25 Van Ness Ave. Tix/info: 415-861-8972; www.nctc.org

The Blood Arm @ Li Po Lounge

LA-based queer band The Blood Arm stop in SF for their "Death Disco" tour. For hard-core fans, this is a sneak preview prior to the band's big show on Friday, June 4 in the Grand Ballroom of the Regency Theatre in support of the album "Bomb Romantics" (they'll be sharing the stage with the acclaimed Franz Ferdinand, plus Sons and Daughters). 8-9pm. Li Po Lounge, 916 Grant Ave. Info: 415-982-0072.

Dangerous Families @ Boadecia's Books

Reading & signing: *Dangerous Families: Queer Writing on Surviving*. Editor Mattilda, aka Matt Bernstein Sycamore, and several contributors will read from their selections. Free. 7:30pm. Boadecia's Books, 398 Colusa Avenue at Colusa Circle, Kensington/North Berkeley. Info: 510-559-9184; www.bookpride.com

Sat 22

Groove in the Grove @ Nat'l AIDS Memorial Grove

Groove in the Grove continues 11am-4pm with a free public concert in the Grove featuring Ruby Records/Ryko recording artist Jacqui Naylor and other Bay Area performers providing a mix of jazz, pop and R&B sounds: Guru Garage (11am); Hym (11:45am); Hayley (12:30pm); Eoin Harrington (1:15pm); Jacqui Naylor (2pm); Jackie King (3pm); Shotgun Wedding (3:45pm); Katie Jay (4:30pm); and Kingsstreet (5:15pm). Local AIDS service organizations will be on hand with info. Saturday also marks the unveiling of the Grove's first permanent educational feature — an AIDS timeline recently installed at the new Belvedere Overlook.

SF Gay Men's Chorus and WomenSing @ First Unitarian Church

"Classics!" A select group of 50 members of the renowned San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, directed by Dr. Kathleen McGuire, collaborates for the first time with WomenSing, directed by Martin Benvenuto, a 50-women chorus based in Orinda (Contra Costa County), to present a program of classical music and Americana. The two choruses will join voices to sing Gabriel Faure's *Requiem*, with orchestral accompaniment, featuring guest soloists Eric Tuan. They close the show with Copland's "The Promise of Living" from the opera *The Tender Land*. In separate sets, SF Gay Men's Chorus will sing Randall Thompson's "Alleluia," the traditional spiritual "Deep River," and "Marry Us" from *NakedMan*, along with the hilarious parody "Eine Kleine NOT Musik" presented by SFGMC's small ensemble, The Lollipop

Guild. WomenSing's set will feature a selection of Copland's Old American Songs, plus their favorites: "Turn Around," "You are the New Day," and the uplifting spiritual "Over My Head." A reception will follow both shows. Tickets \$20 general, \$18 seniors and students in advance; \$25 at the door. 8pm. First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin St. (at Geary). Tix/info: 415-865-3650; www.sfgmc.org

Jeffery Hartgraves' The List @ JSC

JSC/Alchemy Emerging Playwrights previews playwright/director Jeffery Hartgraves' work-in-progress *The List: Caught in the wwWEB* at the Jon Sims Center for the Arts. Special appearances by stage personalities David Bicha (*A Beautiful Man*), Matt Welmer, playwright Jason Post (*Worse Than Chocolate*), and chanteuse Veronica Klaus. Hartgraves tackles the 21st-Century "dating game" of meeting people on the Internet. Laughter, heartbreak, and miscommunications ensue! A fundraiser for JSC/Alchemy Emerging Playwrights. \$25. Doors open at 6:30pm for food-and-drinks reception. Reading begins at 8pm, followed by a talkback with the playwright. Jon Sims Center for the Arts, 1519 Mission St. (btwn 11th St. & South Van Ness). Tix/info: 415-554-0402; www.jonsimsctr.org

Footloose 'Tea Down the House Party' @ Venue 9

Venue 9 will host its last event Saturday night, a "Tea Down the House Party." The night begins with an 8pm show by the comedy group, Drunken Monkey. Then many performers from Venue 9's eight-year history will return to pay their final respects and give tribute to this venerable venue, soon to be torn down to make way for a new office building. Join comedians, spoken-word artists, musicians and all the characters that define the Venue 9 experience. Plus, DJ Puss Puss will be spinning dance jams on the main stage. This closing night party is Footloose's thank you to the Bay Area for supporting Venue 9 and the many incredible artists that graced its stage. Admission FREE. Donations encouraged. Doors open for party at 9:30pm. Party till 2am. Venue 9, 252 Ninth St. (btwn Folsom & Howard). Info/Res: 415/289-2000; www.venue9.com

Honoring Alan Selby @ Eagle Tavern/Daddy's

"Honoring a Hero," a celebration of the extraordinary life of "Daddy" Alan Selby at SF Eagle Tavern, 12th & Harrison, from 7-7pm, followed by an evening of sharing memories, laughter and cheer at Daddy's Bar, 440 Castro St. Info: Tony Koester, 415-647-3371; email tony.koester@sbcglobal.net

Rick Dinihanian

@ Jaguar Bookstore

Meet Rick Dinihanian, *Playgirl's* June Cover model, at a champagne reception where Rick will be signing copies of *Playgirl* and collectors' prints by SF photographer Roger Nguyen. Proceeds benefit the Richmond Emmett AIDS Foundation. 1-3pm. Jaguar Bookstore 4057 18th St. Info: www.timeoutmedia.com/rick.html

Jessica Miller @ The Salon

Opening reception: paintings by Jessica Miller. Free. 7-9pm. Exhibit runs: May 10-July 3. The Salon, 377 Guerrero St. (at 16th). Info: 415-552-5160; www.airhockeydesigns.com

DhamiBoo's Profanely Divine

DhamiBoo Open Studio, featuring Profanely Divine. Take a dash of Van Gogh, a pinch of Grandma Moses, a jigger of Spirit, mix in some phallic worship, throw in a bit of gay sensibility, shake very well indeed, and you end up with the art of DhamiBoo (rhymes with mommy boo), aka Rob Turnbull. Free. Noon-7pm; also Sunday, May 23, noon-5pm. 715 York Street (at 19th). Info: 415-235-4269; see www.dhamiboo.com/artwork.html

Thriving in SF @ The Center

Thriving in SF and The LGBT Center present a fundraiser pasta dinner and live entertainment! Pasta, salad, meat or veggie sauce, garlic bread and dessert! Channel 32's *One Life* will video for their next TV show. Suggested Donation: \$10. 7-9pm. Ceremonial Room, The LGBT Center, 1800 Market (at Octavia).

Ultimate Gay Sex @ Magnet

Magnet and A Different Light Bookstore celebrate the release of author Michael Thomas Ford's new book, *Ultimate Gay Sex*. Superbly written, with hot models and revealing photographs, this book handles everything from coming out, diversity, self-image, relationships and sex, did we mention sex, and yes sex in the gay community. Lambda Literary Award winning author of the *Trials of*

My Queer Life series and *Last Summer*, Ford will sign copies of his work and perhaps even offer us a glimpse of his next novel. Free. 5:30pm. Magnet - 4122 18th St. Info: 415-581-1600; www.magnetstf.org

Ferron/Bitch & Animal

@ Montclair Women's Club

Take in a rockin' weekend with folk legend Ferron, a veteran of 25+ years of women's and folk-music festivals, Canadian poet, and butch sex symbol for generations of babes. Plus the Irrepressible Bitch and Anima in their last show together! Come adore Bitch on vibraphone and Animal on drums and ukulele and yell along for one last chorus of "Pussy Manifesto." Produced by Barbara Price and Lynn Breedlove. \$25 adv; \$28 door (\$40 for weekend including June and Jean Millington & The Slammin' Babes on Sunday, May 23 at 3:30pm). 7:30pm. Montclair Women's Cultural Arts Club, 1650 Mountain Blvd., Oakland. Tix: 510-339-1832; www.EastBayVoice.org

Sun 23

Chris Dillel in

Trampolina's Night Off @ Empire Plush Room

Spend a rare evening with Chris Dillel, known to audiences all over the world as the beloved Trampolina of The Kinsey Sicks, as he performs his first solo cabaret show: *Trampolina's Night Off* at the newly reopened Empire Plush Room. As Trampolina, Dillel has wooed audiences the world over with his vocal stylings. Enjoy an eclectic mix of tales and songs ranging from jazz and blues to R&B, Broadway, folk and more. Dillel's recordings include *The Kinsey Sicks' Boys 2 Girls and Sicks in the City*. He's working on a new CD to be produced and released by Skip Zibron of Marum's. Dillel will join The Kinsey Sicks for their Bay Area Return to the Herbst Theatre in their new show, "I Wanna Be a Republican" on July 3 & 9. *Trampolina's Night Off* runs May 23, 24, 30 & 31 at 8pm. Tix: 415-885-2800; www.empireplushroom.com

Tita Aida @ The Café

"Tita Does The Café," in which local community personality Tita Aida from the Asian & Pacific Islander Wellness Center presents a special trans/drag show for the first time at The Café on Castro. Joining emcee Tita Aida will be The Rice Girls (lipsync drag group), and invited trans/drag performers. Dance to the sounds of DJ Matthew Baker. No cover. 21+ w/d. Show at 9, 10 & 11pm. The Café, Market & Castro. Info: 415-292-3420, ext. 348; www.titaaida.com

Santa Clara U. Alumni

@ GLBT Historical Society

Join other LGBT alumni of Santa Clara University for a behind-the-scenes tour of the GLBT Historical Society Archives, and a look at the current exhibit. Wine & hors d'oeuvres served. Afterwards take a short walk to Restaurant LuLu for dinner. Santa Clara University LGBT current students, faculty and staff cordially invited to attend. Info/RSVP: Corey Morris (Biology '03) at CAMorris@scu.edu; 408-376-3191.

Just An Art Show @ Oxygen Bar

Oxygen Bar, Sushi & Saki Lounge and James L. Smith present "Just An Art Show," with artist reception and chill lounge, featuring works by Cedric Brown, Jason Durant, Jayson Hill, Nick Romero, and DJ James. Free. 7-8pm reception. 795 Valencia St. Info: 415-255-2102; www.2202bar.com

SF Gay Men's Chorus & WomenSing in Berkeley

The San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus and WomenSing present "Classics!" for the East Bay. See Saturday listing for program details. 3pm. First Congregational Church, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley. Tix: 925-974-9169.

Loren Cameron & Jamison Green @ Main Library

"The Vision and Voice of Two FTM Pioneers," in which photographer/author Loren Cameron and author/educator Jamison Green co-present new works and words of FTM (female-to-male) transsexual/transgender experience and perspectives. Free. 2pm. Main Library, Lower Level, Koret Auditorium, 100 Larkin St. (at Grove).

Mon 24

Betsy Salkind @ QComedy

QComedy presents "Monday Night Gay Comedy," hosted by actress, comedian and writer Betsy Salkind (betsysalkind.com). Also appearing: Zoe Dunning, Nick Leonard, Heather Gold, Lori Chapman, Ken Miller, and Bridget Schwartz. \$8-\$15 sliding (NOTAF'LOF). Reception 7:30pm; show 8pm. LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Salkind was a staff writer for *Saturday Night Special* and the sitcom *Roseanne*. Her solo shows include *Anne Frank Superstar*. Her animal impressions never fail to cause convulsive laughter. SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Tix/info: 414-541-5610.



Lounge singer Miss Peggy Judy joins the fun at Steve Murray's *Viva Variety 40* at Buriel Clay Theatre. See Tuesday

Tue 25

Viva Variety 40 @ Buriel Clay Theatre

One Night Only: *Viva Variety 40*, "the hottest ticket in town," a benefit for the AIDS Housing Alliance, a nonprofit organization facilitating housing for HIV/AIDS tenants. Hosted by acclaimed showman Steve Murray. Featuring Miss Peggy Judy (LA-based lounge vocalist); Terese Genecco (SF Cabaret Competition Entertainer of the Year); Velocity Circus' Dizzy Hips (physical circus at its best); the cast of "Awe About Eve" (a revival of *All About Eve*, starring Matthew Martini); RonKat Spearman (guitarist extraordinaire); Genesis Dancesport (ballroom dance champs); Betsy Salkind (standup comedienne and former staff writer for *Roseanne*); Mark Davis (LA-based comic); and Auditorials (political satire sketch comedy troupe). \$15 (\$10 seniors/students). 8pm. Buriel Clay Theatre, 762 Fulton St. (at Webster). Tix: 415-863-0741, ext. #2.

Radar Reading Series

@ Main Library

Michelle Tea hosts the latest "Radar Reading," this month featuring Eddy Joe Cotton, Thea Hillman, Kirk Read and Chelsea Starr. Free. 6pm. Main Library, Lower Level, Latino/Hispanic Community Meeting Room, 100 Larkin St. (at Grove).

Heyday Books & UC Press @ Intersection

Intersection's Independent Press Spotlight focuses on two publishers, Heyday Books & UC Press, with readings by Mark Johnson, Kimi Kodani Hill, David Bacon and Joan Roughgarden. \$5-\$15 sliding. 8pm. 446 Valencia St. (btwn 15th/16th). Info: 415-626-2787; www.theintersection.org

Behind the Scenes with A.C.T. @ Main Library

Delve into the world of Maxim Gorky, the controversial and infamous Russian novelist and playwright, as A.C.T. presents the world premiere of a new adaptation of Gorky's 1909 drama, "A Mother." Members of A.C.T. artistic team will take a look at the life of Gorky and discuss this new translation of his hilarious satire of bourgeois family dysfunction in turn of the century Russia. Free. 6:30pm. Main Library, Lower Level, Koret Auditorium.

Gong Show @ Trannyshack

Amateur night returns with a vengeance in the 5th Annual Trannyshack Gong Show, hosted by Leigh Crow as Chuck Barris, with celebrity judges Heikla as Brett Sommers, Laurie Bushman as Fannie Flagg, and Johnny Kat as Rip Taylor. \$7. 10pm-3am (show at midnight). The Stud, 9th & Harrison. Info: www.heikla.com

Wed 26

It Kinda Scares Me

@ Jewish Film Fest, YBCA

The SF Jewish Film Festival presents a special screening of Tomer Heymann's gritty/funny documentary *It Kinda Scares Me*. Like everywhere, Tel Aviv has its own group of tough young men. Bravado is everything. Nights are for fighting. A drama coach, Tomer, attempts to direct their energy into creating a play. As showtime approaches, Tomer reveals he's gay, shocking his actors, who must nonetheless go on with the show. \$7 gen'l; \$6 student/senior. 7:30pm. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, Screening Room. Tix: 415-978-2787.

Thu 27

Sun & Moon Ensemble @ Dance Mission Theatre

Sun & Moon Ensemble's new production



"Bri-Candy," new cartoon/dream-logic-inspired paintings by Brian McDonald, now at Glama-Rama, 417 South Van Ness Ave @ 15th. Info: 415-861-GLAM; sillydilly.com

Longing for Light weaves together drama, dance, humor, giant puppets, masks, shadow play, and live music in an original piece inspired by creation tales from around the globe. Enter a world of myth, metaphor, and powerful visual experience. Director Maria Lexa worked for 20 years at the forefront of the European theatre scene as actress, teacher, theatre group leader, and international festival organizer. \$10-\$15 sliding. 8pm May 27-29; 2pm & 8pm May 30. DMT, 3316 24th St. (at Mission, near 24th St. BART). Info: 415-282-4331; www.sunandmoonensemble.org

night/OUT @ Berkeley Rep

Berkeley Repertory Theatre presents *night/OUT*, a fantastic production of a Master Class by Terrence McNally (Love! Velour! Compassion!), directed by Moises Kaufman (The Laramie Project), featuring the inimitable Rita Moreno. Followed by a fabulous post-show party for the LGBT community with food, drinks, and a DJ. \$20-\$43. 8pm show, followed by party. Berkeley Rep., 2025 Addison St., downtown Berkeley (1/2 blk. from BART). Tix (mention *night/OUT* when buying tickets): 510-647-2949. Info: www.berkeleyrep.org

GenderEnders

@ Femina Potens

The trans/intersex/genderqueer-focused performance series GenderEnders makes its return with the first ever "Tranny Lovers Show!", featuring writers who have been, or currently are, the partners of trans people. With Michelle Tea, Meliza Bañales, Annalee Newitz, Clare Lewis, plus a few other special guests and an open mic. Hosted by Julia Serano. Femina Potens is an art gallery and all-ages performance space dedicated to bringing together women and transgender artists. \$5-7 (sliding scale). open mic sign-up at 8pm, show at 8:30pm. Femina Potens, 465 South Van Ness (at 16th St.). Info: feminapotens.com

L.E.A.R.

@ New Langton Arts

Love, Egos, Alternative Rock (L.E.A.R.), directed by Jesse Baldwin, written by Stuart Bousel, based on the short story "The Cunning Stunts" by Melissa Klepetar. Sometime in the mid to late nineties, Simone (Lisa Swanson) and Tim (Wylie Herman) are two young American kids in love, but lives lived in retail and rent control are sapping the fire out of their romance. Simone decides to start a garage band with her friends, the ambitious and unscrupulous Naomi, the blithely apathetic Charlotte (Stephanie Young), and the sadly unmarketable Britney (Ellie Davis). By some freak accident they become overnight alt-rock sensations. Simone and her music are now at the mercy of the squabbling gay power couple who run the record label (Chris Kelly and Ryan Hayes), a maniacal nymphomaniac pop princess named Robin Swords (Amy Seimetz), and a well-dressed but fairly talented boy band more interested in scoring drugs and record contracts than making music. Narrated by an ageing punk rock icon (B. Warden Lawlor) and a rabid fan (Margery Fairchild), the whole thing is done up VH1 "Behind the Music" style. The soundtrack is stitched together from the CDs of myriad local bands and performers. Brought to you by the creative team behind *Edward II*, *Speak To Me* and *Troika*. \$10. 8pm nightly May 27, 28, 29, June 3, 4, 5.

10, 11, 12. New Langton Center for the Arts, 1246 Folsom St. Tix/info: 415-752-2084; email Endymion82@aol.com (subject line "LEAR.>").

Spirituality & the LGBT Community

@ Commonwealth Club

LGBT Forum and the SF LGBT Community Center present "Spirituality and the LGBT Community," a public forum. Is there a queer eye for LGBT Spirituality? Within the LGBT community, some have abandoned their faith tradition of birth to seek out non-traditional queer spiritual movements. This forum will provide a discussion of the issues and trends with panelists Rabbi Denise Eger (Congregation Kol Ami, West Hollywood and architect for the acceptance of same-sex marriage in Reformed Judaism); Christian de la Huerza (Q-Spirit founder and author of *Coming Out Spiritually*); Reverend Karen Oliveto (Bethany Methodist Church); Reverend Troy Perry (founder & Moderator/Elder of Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches). Moderator John E. Lazar is Regional Vice President of the American Cancer Society, Co-Finance Chair of the Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club, and former co-chair of the City of West Hollywood LGBT Advisory Council. 5:30-7pm. 595 Market St. Res: 415-597-6705/6706; www.commonwealthclub.org

Comedy à la Française

@ Main Library

Screening: The Main Library's *Comedy à la Française* film series presents *The Closet* (Le Placard), 2001, 84min. Mild mannered accountant François (Daniel Auteuil) pretends to be gay in order to avoid being fired. Hilarity results as everyone's perception of him changes. Noon. Main Library, Lower Level, Koret Auditorium. Info: 415-557-4277; www.sfol.org

The Ohlone People of SF @ Randall Museum Theater

The SF Natural History Lecture Series presents "The Ohlone People of San Francisco, Give or Take A Millennium," with guest speaker Andrew Galvan, Ohlone Indian descendant & curator at Old Mission Dolores. Free (donations encouraged). 7:30pm. 199 Museum Way (off Roosevelt, above 14th & Castro). Info: 415-554-9600; www.randall-museum.org

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The race is on for Mr. SF Leather '05

by Mister Marcus

It's nearly four months until Mr. San Francisco Leather 2005 is chosen on Saturday, September 25, but one candidate is already in place, chosen last Saturday night, May 15, at the Edge Bar in the Castro where they staged their competition to choose a candidate for the next higher title.

A wall-to-wall crowd greeted emcee T.J. Istvan, who took the mike and introduced judges Werner Tillinger, Deana Dawn and outgoing titleholder Frank Vasconcellos. Two contestants, Todd Kinard and Michael Kay, were competing, and the crowd was enthusiastic in cheering them on.

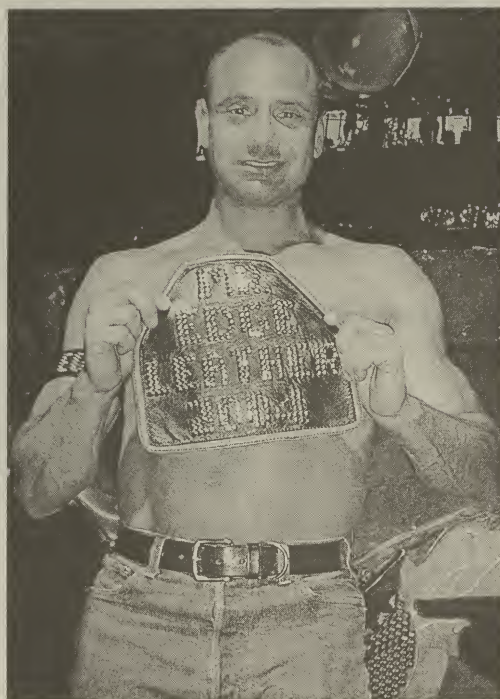
After former Empress Sheba knocked 'em dead with another of her signature blockbuster "live" songs, the competition got under way. T.J. is one of the best MC's around and always manages to inject a balance of levity and serious dialogue with contestants. His duet with Sheba later in the evening was another testament to the dynamic talent in our community.

Many raffle tickets were sold, with some \$530 raised for Positive Resource Center. Various leather "personalities" and titleholders were on hand, including Mr. SF Leather Julian Marshburn, and were pressed into service by drawing the raffle tickets.

During his "step-aside" speech, Frank managed to thank everyone who supported his year-plus with the title and proposed marriage onstage to his lover David during his 14 minute speech. David answered in the affirmative and the crowd went wild with one wag shouting, "I want the pick of the litter!!"

After the mandatory question and answer segment, speeches, and the "jock attire" show, tallymaster Don "Ho" Tse brought the results to the stage, whereupon Todd Kinard was declared the winner. Inside sources say the voting was very close.

Mr. Kinard will compete for the Mr. San Francisco Leather 2005 title in September. Among the prizes for the winner: \$300



First out of the gate for the Mr. SF Leather 2005 title, Todd Kinard, was chosen Mr. Edge Leather 2004 last Saturday night, May 15. He advances to compete for the Mr. SF Leather title in September 2004, the night before the Folsom Street Fair.

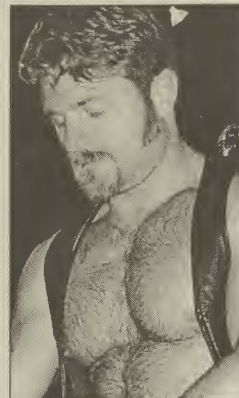
cash; a vest patch with a custom made leather vest; and a \$500 gift certificate from Simon at the Latino USA Leather Company.

It was a fun, energy filled night at the Edge. Gary Virginia produced the event, with a nod to Alan Selby as the Honorary Producer.

IML events

If you've had the inclination to check out the IML web site (www.iml.com) on the "Events" Section, you'll find seven pages of events taking place besides the "official" events. Among them, a "People of Color Leather Leadership Caucus" produced by Chicago's Onyx Leathermen. Discussions will center on mentoring people of color in leadership

next page ►



Mr. SF Leather Julian Marshburn was on hand May 15 at the Mr. Edge Leather contest to help with the raffle drawings.

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Friday, May 21

Exiles of SF present: "Breaking Ego! Secrets of Interrogations & Psychological Mind Games" by "Celeste" at the Women's Building. Doors open 1930, program at 2000. \$3 members/\$6 guests. Russian River Eagle Bar celebrates its anniversary tonight beginning at 2100 and surprises according to manager Mike Hardison.

Weekend, May 21-23

San Diego Boyfest 2004 with meet & greet on Friday at the San Diego Eagle; Saturday, the San Diego Leather Daddy and Daddy's Boy contest and MUD party at Pecs. Sunday, a brunch at Tio Carlos. For info: www.sdboysofleather.org.

Saturday, May 22

Celebration of the life of Alan Selby at the Eagle beginning at 1400. A huge crowd is expected for this important event.

Sunday, May 23

Good Luck and Send-off party for Mr. SF Leather

Julian Marshburn leaving in a few days to compete in Chicago at International Mr. Leather 2004. Fun, drawings, raffles, surprises. Don't miss this one!

Wednesday, May 26

Leather Buddies gather at 933 Harrison for games people of leather play. Strict dress code. No sneakers. No cologne. 777-HEAD.

Weekend, May 27-31

International Mr. Leather 2004 weekend in Chicago with a mile-long list of activities, gatherings, parties, Int'l. Boot Black chosen, Int'l. Mr. Leather Chosen; Black & Blue Ball, press conference, 12-step meetings and more - much more.

Saturday, May 29

No. California Leather Boy Roger Hunt hosts "Everybody Else Went to IML" party at the Russian River Eagle where cock rings of porn stars and leather celebs will be auctioned off for PAWS and a 50/50 benefit.

POLKSTRASSE

Imperials gone wild!

by Sweet Lips

Get set for some rowdy good fun this Sunday, May 23, as The Imperial Council of San Francisco and Bud Light with their Most Imperial Majesties Emperor Fernando and Empress China Silk present the 2004/05 Mr. Cowboy and Miss Cowgirl Contest. Yee ha! The festivities take place from 4-7 p.m. at the Pendulum Bar in the Castro. Raffle tickets for a DVD player, a cowboy hat, and other prizes can be purchased for only \$1. The prizes will be given out on Sunday, June 13, from 4-8 p.m. at The Edge Bar, with a \$7 beer/soda bust.

As if that's not enough fun, this Saturday, May 22, the Asian Divas present selections from Broadway musicals, a night of entertainment

benefiting the Asian & Pacific Island Wellness Center. The show takes place in cozy Club Rendez-Vous on Polk St., starting at 9 p.m. The affair is hosted by Susie Wong, China Silk, and Tiger Lily, and features The Rice Girls, Mr. Gay SF Angel, Chanel and many more. Your guest emcees for the night are Remy Martin and Tita Aida.

Last Sunday, May 16, The Village Inn and Restaurant in the Monte Rio, at 20822 River Blvd., put on a spectacular art show, and you can still check it out. The oil paintings will be on display through June 12. The artist, H. Moni Rodrigues, whom we all know and adore as Moni, is not

only a great pianist, but a great painter as well.

Last week, Dennis Tyler and I stopped in at Rod's still very popular Pendulum Bar in the Castro and had drinks with a very attractive bartender from the Lone Star Saloon and my great friends Bill and Frank. Rod, you still run a classy joint, with the handsome Michael Valdez making drinks.

Back on Polkstrasse, the Cinch Saloon, at 1723 Polk St., is drawing big crowds, both old and new, so check out the scene when you can. Not far away, the 'N Touch at 1548 Polk St. also continues to draw big crowds, so feel free to go there and go wild! ▼

Cocktail Hour

Riding the next wave

by Gregg Shapiro

A recent series of Echo & The Bunnymen reissues, a box set of The Cure rarities, and countless electroclash groups indicate that renewed interest in new wave music, both past and present, is approaching full swing. Not to mention that two different Devo songs can be heard in television commercials. I'm not sure if they're supposed to stir feelings of nostalgia or nausea.



stellastarr

At the forefront of what I've taken to calling the next wave (21st-century post-new wave) is a quartet called stellastarr* (that's their asterisk, not mine) and their self-titled, major-label, full-length debut on RCA. One listen to this album and you know that this band spent more than its share of time listening to The Call, The Rings and other early-to-mid-'80s bands. Stellastarr* makes this kind of music sound fresh and exciting. With a U2-esque guitar opening "In the Walls" followed by Shawn Christensen's hot-and-cold vocals, you know that you'd better strap yourself in if you're dancing onto this time machine. I see dozens of boys and girls doing the Belinda Carlisle to "Jenny," I see the irresistible "My Coco" becoming stellastarr*'s trademark song. I can feel the floor shaking as peo-

ple all over the world jump up and down to the persistent beat of "No Weather," and I can imagine late-night parties winding down to the musical dream-state of "Untitled."



Ima Robot comes closest to matching stellastarr*'s new wave revival zeal on its self-titled Virgin Records debut. Mulletted lead singer Alex Ebert sounds a bit like stellastarr*'s Christensen, while legendary drummer Joey Waronker beats the skins with unmatched ferocity. Leaning more towards a glittery, glam new wave interpretation, Ima Robot snagged my intention.

The organ work and emotionally blasé vocals of Mates of State are directly descended from The Human Switchboard. On *Team Boo* (Polyvinyl), Kori Gardner and Jason Hammel reach new heights of exhilaration. No one else sounds like this, and no one else should try to.

My Favorite conjures up a number of '80s new wave bands such as New Order, Prefab Sprout, The Smiths and The Cure, in a seemingly effortless manner on the double-disc set *The Happiest Days of Our Lives* (Double Agent). To quote the decidedly un-new wave Peter Allen, "Everything old is new again."

Second that motion

As new wave as a punk-revival band from Minneapolis can be,

Motion City Soundtrack incorporate Moog synthesizers into the songs on its full-length debut album *I Am the Movie* (Epitaph). Highlights include "The Future Freaks Me Out" (with its *Will & Grace* references), "My Favorite Accident," and "Don't Call It a Comeback."

On *Hocus Pocus* (Touch and Go), New York-based Enon alternates between near-electroclash next wave theatrics and garage punk. The combination is alternately exciting and jarring, as in the case of the electro-funk shower "Monsoon" preceding the motorcycle-boots crunch of "UTZ."

Pretty Girls Make Graves takes its new wave seriously on *The New Romance* (Matador). From the Smiths reference of the band's name to the nonchalance of lead vocalist Andrea Zollo's emotionally charged vocals, Pretty Girls Make Graves ride the next wave like seasoned surfers. Mini-electroclash cut "Mr. Club" welcomes the listener to the narcotic chaos of "All Medicated Geniuses."

Mountaineers have so much to offer that they released a self-titled EP and an album, *Messy Century* (Mute/Deltasonic), within months of each other. Electronic beats and loops mingle with post-pop instrumentation.

Synthesizers and other electronic instrumentations are key components in new wave and next wave groups. Some of these groups just want to shift into Depeche Mode mode, while others won't be happy until they make a few Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark. Synth thrill-seekers would be wise to check out *Oh Fantastica* (Jagjaguwar) by Aspera, *Rainbow Panda* (Mental Monkey) by Mixel Pixel, *Vintage Hi-Tech* (!K7) by Spacek, and *Drive* (Neurodisc) by Peplab. ▼

and it should prove interesting to say the least.

Updates

While I was in Chicago for the Mr. Chicago Leather 2004 contest, a sign was posted on the front door of the Cell Block Bar on Upper Halsted stating it was closed due to plumbing repairs. As of this deadline, that bar has yet to reopen. Hopefully something will

be done to get it open in time for IML.

In Seattle, The Cuff Complex has been sold to one Randy Fields from Tacoma who also owns Club Silverstone in Tacoma and the Urban Onion Bar in Olympia. According to reliable reports, Mr. Fields is very supportive of the leather community and especially the Seattle Men in Leather. Stay tuned. ▼

Mister Marcus

◀ page 38

skills, organizing skills, people of color titleholders and other topics and it's about time.

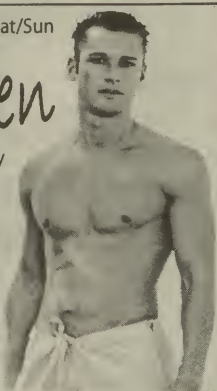
So many parties are being staged by different groups and cities, you will need all the stamina you can muster to keep up with it all. IML is the place to be seen

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photo (c) David Morgan

Golden guy Trey Rexx and sturdy Tony Mecelli are *Stiff* as a Board.

From Greeks to Greeked

by John F. Karr

The loveless sexuality of porn is as wearying to me as the endless brutality of pop films. So I was wary of *Troy*. Where the tale of one man's fight for justice gave *Gladiator* some grandeur, the story of *Troy* seems merely a protracted squabble over property rights — the boys want the *demoiselle*, and their bosses want the Dardanelles. But *Troy* won me in its opening scene, where the eye-candy of a blond giant gave me a rise. I found the siege of Troy exciting, and its sacking tragic. But, listen, love-doves: it's all about the guys. *Troy* is a fuckin' festival of beautiful men. Muscled, whiskered, hairy, and skirted, locked in the best man-on-man action I've seen in a while. And I see a lot. As Achilles, Brad Pitt is pumped up and stripped down, with a band of Myrmidons who are fearsome dark-eyed diesels. Ajax is the ultimate, uber-Colt hairy stud, Odysseus the definitive daddy, and the regal Trojan princes wear their chitons slung so low on their hips you're surprised not to see bush. (Do both Eric Bana and Orlando Bloom shave this tender land? Do they shave each other's?)

The only pitfall? Mr. Pitt's Achilles is not gay. So just for the record, here's what the movie's left out. Achilles' mother, knowing he will die at Troy, hid him on a remote island, where he passed his childhood disguised as a girl, housed in the women's quarters

(Brad sure missed one of those fun drag-turns here). Rebelling against this humiliating ordeal, he assembles the fiercest warriors to be had, engages in macho exploits, and just as his mother feared, sails for Troy. With him is his comrade/lover Patroclus, with whom he has a threeway with fellow warrior Antilochus. He two-times them by having an affair with Troilus, a Trojan prince. Then, it's Antilochus (a burly, startlingly blue-eyed man in the film) who brings Achilles the news of Patroclus' death, and he who restrains Achilles from committing suicide.

When the ghost of Patroclus appears to Achilles to beg that their bones be buried together, Achilles exclaims, "Oh, come closer! Throw our arms around each other, just for a moment!" The after-story: The lovers were buried together in a single grave, their ashes and bones ritually commingled.

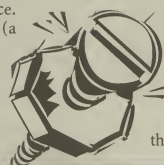
Rexx ray

Now we jump from *Troy* to *Trey*. Porn star Trey Rexx may not be semi-divine like Achilles, whose mother was a goddess. But he's got some godlike attributes. He's a golden warrior of a lover, from his tousled blonde locks to his radiant pubic bush. There's a bright golden daze on that meadow. *Trey*'s the best part of *Stiff* as a Board, the last movie in our recent Studio 2000 marathon.

There are four scenes of construction workers making it with each other. Tony Mecelli's long, straight cock is ideal for joy-riding, and Tag Adams (bless his always lascivious attitude) jockeys

on it jubilantly, culminating with a Reverse Cowboy that makes the cum shoot far and copiously. Porn vet Doug Jeffries and fresh-faced newcomer Eric Hunter are on different wavelengths: Hunter calmly intent, Jeffries spouting porn clichés during a barrage of unfelt action. A four-man orgy has rousing moments largely due to

raunchy Owen Hawke, sandwiched in the middle of a chain-fuck. Finally, there's *Trey*, in a rare outing as a bottom. Mecelli's the top. Excellent lighting gives a golden glow to their bodies as they share a



Karnal Knowledge

mesmerizing 69. Rexx expertly

deep-throats all of Mecelli's lengthy tool. If Mecelli's not an artful fucker — all he knows how to do is pump — he's sturdy and strong. All eyes are on the bottom, anyway, because *Trey*, at the manfully ripe, golden age of 40, looks splendid and gives great ass.

There are the standard Studio 2000 lapses. Sexuality is generally unsupported by the editing, which disregards continuity to whisk us about abruptly. The orgy becomes a medley of greatest hits as it jumps in and out of groupings. All the performers have more to offer than we're allowed to see in this film. There's a really big turn-off in the pretense that most of the guys are straight, gleefully accepting sex with openly gay men, and then disdaining and disparaging them. The filmmaker's confused ideas of sexual appeal drop even more when one character whippers, "You suck cock better than my bitch." That's just plain offensive. studio2000video.com; (800) 435-2445 ▼

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SUSTIVA does not cure HIV or prevent passing HIV to others.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION: SUSTIVA should not be taken with Hismanal® (astemizole), Propulsid® (cisapride), Versed® (midazolam), Halcion® (triazolam), or ergot derivatives. Tell your doctor about any medications or herbal products (particularly St. John's wort) that you are taking.

Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams. These feelings tend to go away after taking the medication for a few weeks. A small number of patients have reported severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior.

There have been a few reports of suicide but it is not known if SUSTIVA (efavirenz) was the cause. Rash is another common side effect. Rashes usually go away without any change in treatment. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. If you or your child develop a rash, call your doctor right away.

Women should not become pregnant or breastfeed while taking SUSTIVA.

Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking anti-HIV medicines. The cause and long-term effects are not known at this time.

You should take SUSTIVA on an empty stomach, preferably at bedtime. Taking SUSTIVA with food increases the amount of medicine in your body, which may increase the frequency of side effects. Taking SUSTIVA at bedtime may make some side effects less bothersome.



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Please see important information about SUSTIVA on the next page.

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tablets

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R_x ONLY

PATIENT INFORMATION

SUSTIVA® (sus-TEE-vah)
[efavirenz (eh-FAH-vih-rehnz)]
capsules and tablets**ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with SUSTIVA.**Please also read the section **"MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH SUSTIVA."**

Read this information before you start taking SUSTIVA (efavirenz). Read it again each time you refill your prescription, in case there is any new information. This leaflet provides a summary about SUSTIVA and does not include everything there is to know about your medicine. This information is not meant to take the place of talking with your doctor.

What is SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is a medicine used in combination with other medicines to help treat infection with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). SUSTIVA is a type of anti-HIV drug called a "non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor" (NNRTI).

SUSTIVA works by lowering the amount of HIV in the blood (viral load). SUSTIVA must be taken with other anti-HIV medicines. When taken with other anti-HIV medicines, SUSTIVA has been shown to reduce viral load and increase the number of CD4 cells, a type of immune cell in blood. SUSTIVA may not have these effects in every patient.

SUSTIVA does not cure HIV or AIDS. People taking SUSTIVA may still develop other infections and complications. Therefore, it is very important that you stay under the care of your doctor.

SUSTIVA has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others. Therefore, continue to practice safe sex, and do not use or share dirty needles.

What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?

Serious psychiatric problems. A small number of patients experience severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior while taking SUSTIVA. Some patients have thoughts of suicide and a few have actually committed suicide. These problems tend to occur more often in patients who have had mental illness. Contact your doctor right away if you think you are having these psychiatric symptoms, so your doctor can decide if you should continue to take SUSTIVA.

Common side effects. Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams during treatment with SUSTIVA. These side effects may be reduced if you take SUSTIVA at bedtime on an empty stomach. They also tend to go away after you have taken the medicine for a few weeks. If you have these common side effects, such as dizziness, it does not mean that you will also have serious psychiatric problems, such as severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. Tell your doctor right away if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. It is possible that these symptoms may be more severe if SUSTIVA is used with alcohol or mood altering (street) drugs.

If you are dizzy, have trouble concentrating, or are drowsy, avoid activities that may be dangerous, such as driving or operating machinery.

Rash is common. Rashes usually go away without any change in treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. If you develop a rash, call your doctor right away. **Rash may be a serious problem in some children.** Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA.

Other common side effects include tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, and diarrhea.

Changes in body fat. Changes in body fat develop in some patients taking anti-HIV medicine. These changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), in the breasts, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these fat changes are not known.

Tell your doctor or healthcare provider if you notice any side effects while taking SUSTIVA.

Contact your doctor before stopping SUSTIVA because of side effects or for any other reason.

This is not a complete list of side effects possible with SUSTIVA. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for a more complete list of side effects of SUSTIVA and all the medicines you will take.

How should I take SUSTIVA (efavirenz)?**General Information**

- You should take SUSTIVA on an empty stomach, preferably at bedtime.
- Swallow SUSTIVA with water.
- Taking SUSTIVA with food increases the amount of medicine in your body, which may increase the frequency of side effects.

- Taking SUSTIVA (efavirenz) at bedtime may make some side effects less bothersome.
- SUSTIVA must be taken in combination with other anti-HIV medicines. If you take only SUSTIVA, the medicine may stop working.
- Do not miss a dose of SUSTIVA. If you forget to take SUSTIVA, take the missed dose right away, unless it is almost time for your next dose. Do not double the next dose. Carry on with your regular dosing schedule. If you need help in planning the best times to take your medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- Take the exact amount of SUSTIVA your doctor prescribes. Never change the dose on your own. Do not stop this medicine unless your doctor tells you to stop.
- If you believe you took more than the prescribed amount of SUSTIVA, contact your local Poison Control Center or emergency room right away.
- Tell your doctor if you start any new medicine or change how you take old ones. Your doses may need adjustment.
- When your SUSTIVA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to SUSTIVA and become harder to treat.
- Your doctor may want to do blood tests to check for certain side effects while you take SUSTIVA.

Capsules

- The dose of SUSTIVA capsules for adults is 600 mg (three 200-mg capsules, taken together) once a day by mouth. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower (see **Can children take SUSTIVA?**).

Tablets

- The dose of SUSTIVA tablets for adults is 600 mg (one tablet) once a day by mouth.

Can children take SUSTIVA?

Yes, children who are able to swallow capsules can take SUSTIVA. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower than the dose for adults. Capsules containing lower doses of SUSTIVA are available. Your child's doctor will determine the right dose based on your child's weight.

Who should not take SUSTIVA?

Do not take SUSTIVA if you are allergic to the active ingredient, efavirenz, or to any of the inactive ingredients. Your doctor and pharmacist have a list of the inactive ingredients.

What should I avoid while taking SUSTIVA (efavirenz)?

- Women taking SUSTIVA should not become pregnant.** Serious birth defects have been seen in animals treated with SUSTIVA. It is not known whether this could happen in humans. **Tell your doctor right away if you are pregnant.** Also talk with your doctor if you want to become pregnant.
- Women should not rely only on hormone-based birth control, such as pills, injections, or implants, because SUSTIVA may make these contraceptives ineffective. Women must use a reliable form of barrier contraception, such as a condom or diaphragm, even if they also use other methods of birth control.
- Do not breast-feed if you are taking SUSTIVA.** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that mothers with HIV not breast-feed because they can pass the HIV through their milk to the baby. Also, SUSTIVA may pass through breast milk and cause serious harm to the baby. Talk with your doctor if you are breast-feeding. You may need to stop breast-feeding or use a different medicine.
- Taking SUSTIVA with alcohol or other medicines causing similar side effects as SUSTIVA, such as drowsiness, may increase those side effects.
- Do not take any other medicines without checking with your doctor. These medicines include prescription and nonprescription medicines and herbal products, especially St. John's wort.

Before using SUSTIVA, tell your doctor if you

- have problems with your liver or have hepatitis.** Your doctor may want to do tests to check your liver while you take SUSTIVA.
- have ever had mental illness or are using drugs or alcohol.**
- have ever had seizures or are taking medicine for seizures** (for example, Dilantin® (phenytoin), Tegretol® (carbamazepine), or phenobarbital). Your doctor may want to check drug levels in your blood from time to time.

What important information should I know about taking other medicines with SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines, including ones for HIV, and cause serious side effects. Your doctor may change your other medicines or change their doses. Other medicines, including herbal products, may affect SUSTIVA. For this reason, it is very important to:

- let all your doctors and pharmacists know that you take SUSTIVA.
- tell your doctors and pharmacists about all medicines you take. This includes those you buy over-the-counter and herbal or natural remedies.

Bring all your prescription and nonprescription medicines as well as any herbal remedies that you are taking when you see a doctor, or make a list of their names, how much you take, and how often you take them. This will give your doctor a complete picture of the medicines you use. Then he or she can decide the best approach for your situation.

Taking SUSTIVA (efavirenz) with St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort is not recommended. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or are planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease SUSTIVA levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to SUSTIVA or cross-resistance to other anti-HIV drugs.

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH SUSTIVA

The following medicines may cause serious and life-threatening side effects when taken with SUSTIVA. You should not take any of these medicines while taking SUSTIVA:

- Hismanal® (astemizole)
- Propulsid® (cisapride)
- Versed® (midazolam)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Ergot medications (for example, Wigraine® and Cafergot®)

The following medicines may need to be replaced with another medicine when taken with SUSTIVA (efavirenz):

- Fortovase®, Invirase® (saquinavir)
- Biaxin® (clarithromycin)

The following medicines may need to have their dose changed when taken with SUSTIVA:

- Crixivan® (indinavir)
- Kaletra® (lopinavir/ritonavir)
- Methadone
- Mycobutin® (rifabutin)
- Zoloft® (sertraline)

These are not all the medicines that may cause problems if you take SUSTIVA. Be sure to tell your doctor about all medicines that you take.

General advice about SUSTIVA:

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Do not use SUSTIVA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give SUSTIVA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

Keep SUSTIVA at room temperature (77°F) in the bottle given to you by your pharmacist. The temperature can range from 59° to 86°F.

Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children.

This leaflet summarizes the most important information about SUSTIVA. If you would like more information, talk with your doctor. You can ask your pharmacist or doctor for the full prescribing information about SUSTIVA, or you can visit the SUSTIVA website at <http://www.sustiva.com> or call 1-800-426-7644.

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In defense of gay marriage

by Jim Nawrocki

Gay Marriage: Why It Is Good for Gays, Good for Straights, and Good for America by Jonathan Rauch; Times Books, \$22

When the US Supreme Court tossed out, on May 14, a conservative challenge to gay marriages in Massachusetts, it effectively cleared the way for the state to become the first to allow same-sex marriages. It also made clear that the battle for the right to gay marriage will be waged in the states, not at the Federal level. Early on, before Mayor Gavin Newsom pushed the issue into the national spotlight by allowing gay marriages in San Francisco, and before the President called for a Constitutional amendment "protecting" marriage, even the Bush Administration seemed to accept the idea that the states, not the Federal government, should decide the issue.

All of this has made for high drama and lots of headlines. So it's almost an understatement to say that Jonathan Rauch's book, *Gay Marriage: Why It Is Good for Gays, Good for Straights, and Good for America*, is timely.

Rauch's title leaves no doubt as to what his position is on the issue. As a journalist who has written extensively on social policy and a gay man who has a long-term partner, he is certainly qualified to write about same-sex marriage. But his closeness to this subject is, with respect to this book, a plus. Though the gay marriage issue has raised passions on both sides, Rauch blends his own passionate belief in the rightness

of same-sex marriage with an admirably dispassionate, reasonable, thorough, and fair examination of nearly all aspects of the gay marriage debate.

After a brief introduction in which he asks his readers to imagine a "life without marriage," Rauch acknowledges the difficulties of his project. He is well aware that those who support a ban on same-sex marriage may be among his readers, and he asks simply that they hear him out. He promises to convert no one to his side; what he does promise is to attempt an examination of two crucial questions: "What would gay marriage do?" and "What is marriage for?" Rauch is enough of a realist to acknowledge that the gay community bears "the burden of proof" with respect to showing why gay marriage is a good thing. He goes a long way toward providing that proof by offering a well-reasoned argument in defense of same-sex marriage.

Sanctioned space

Rauch makes it clear that he is a proponent of marriage, for both gays and straights, as a community-sanctioned and -supported commitment between two adults. He believes that all marriage serves as a stabilizing force that strengthens the overall community, and he makes no bones about saying that the gay community, especially the gay male community, needs to grow up. He asserts that gay marriage will, and should, encourage gay men to leave behind the days of promiscuity: "The underground gay culture of the Long Dark Age, and then the sex-is-love, life-is-play culture of the Long Dark Age's aftermath, had

gay marriage

Why It Is Good for Gays,
Good for Straights, and
Good for America

JONATHAN RAUCH

their uses. But it is time to move on. Marriage and the prospect of marriage change us, and they do so not by saddling us with a new oppression, but by giving us the freedom to be our best selves."

Rauch is an absolutist when it comes to marriage. He does not believe that the gay community should settle for domestic partner legislation and other arrangements that attempt to offer all of the benefits of marriage without the civil and sacred elements of genuine marriage. He calls these alternatives "marriage lite" and maintains that they actually erode the institution of marriage.

This review cannot do justice to the breadth of the issues that Rauch examines. Suffice it to say that he answers, effectively, almost every argument thrown against gay marriage. He also admits it when he feels his arguments are on shaky ground, or when he's uncertain. In the end, Rauch is confident that the victory for gay marriage supporters will happen as states, one by one, adopt gay marriage and find that doing so does not bring about an end to life as we know it. It may take a long time, says Rauch, even decades, but he has a vision of an America in which gay marriage is accepted, and even celebrated, by all. Recent events in Massachusetts seem to show that the process is just beginning. ▽

Long live the avant-garde

Michael Wallin's poetry of gay sexuality

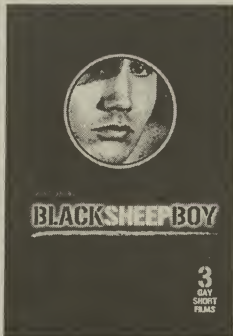
by David Nahmod

During the early 1970s, there was much discussion about the merging of adult films and art films. Gay titles like *Boys in the Sand* ('71) and straight titles like *The Devil in Miss Jones* ('72) combined graphic sex with dark, moody camerawork and the pretense of emotional subtext. But nothing could hide the fact that these films were made for one reason: to make money by titillating audiences with hardcore sex.

San Francisco-based experimental filmmaker Michael Wallin, whose DVD collection of short films, *Black Sheep Boy*, is now in stores, attempts with his work to do what the early porn directors could not: to show the poetry in graphic gay sexuality. Wallin, a former teacher of film at San Francisco State and City College, prefers the avant-garde.

"I like the fact that avant-garde films are not manipulative like standard Hollywood films," he told me. "They don't spoonfeed you a story or a message. They allow the viewer to participate in what they're seeing."

To Wallin, avant-garde film is more akin to poetry or a painting.



"The camera is not used simply to document, but is used creatively via framing, composition, light, movement, editing. It has unlimited possibilities to change notions of timing and pacing. Avant-garde exploits film as a unique artform, with its own tools as a medium of expression."

Wallin's first film, *The Place Between Our Bodies* ('75), is the third of the three films in the *Black Sheep Boy* collection. It was his graduate film at SF State. He did not indicate in his proposal to the school that it would contain graphic sex, but said that it would

be about "sexuality."

"It's the first film to portray gay sex that isn't porn," he said. In the pre-AIDS-era film, Wallin and his then-lover are seen fucking sans condoms. According to the director, the sex is "playful and celebratory."

When the film was screened at the school, Wallin's teachers were stunned. People either said nothing or congratulated the film's beauty and courage. *The Place Between Our Bodies* is a romantic, deeply erotic portrait of gay cruising and gay love circa the mid-'70s. That now-legendary era of free sex enjoyed by our country's first fully out community has been romanticized out of proportion by those who were there and those who wish they were.

Polk Street cruise

Wallin was there, with his camera, and the first third of the 33-minute film shows the city's endless parade of beautiful young men cruising Polk Street. The Le Salon Book Store, the Tom Kat Theatre, and other landmarks of '70s gay life are seen in a series of shots that capture the reality of the era's cruising culture as no other film has.

next page ►

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Saving the world, one house at a time

Exploring the primal gay drive to preserve and restore

by Yvonne Zipter

A Passion to Preserve: Gay Men as Keepers of Culture by Will Fellows; University of Wisconsin Press, \$30

As a fan of Will Fellows' earlier book, *Farm Boys: Lives of Gay Men from the Rural Midwest* (1996), I looked forward to the publication of *A Passion to Preserve*, which, as it turns out, also has some fascinating stories. The book's focus is the preserva-

tion of buildings (primarily houses), but there are also accounts by men who collect and/or restore everything from old cars and appliances (vintage washing machines!) to books and photographs. Organized by region (Atlantic South, Midwest, California, e.g.) "because of the primacy of place in preservation," *Passion* consists of first-person narrations by more than two dozen men, along with commentary, analysis, and historical syntheses by Fellows.

With first-person materials

from many different narrators, the book can be uneven, with the least engaging of the stories seeming to have been constructed by patching together answers from a questionnaire. Other accounts, however, virtually leap from the page, as when William Wartmann begins his narrative: "I was raised in an immigrant neighborhood in Chicago, a slum. At the age of 11, I slept with a revolver under my pillow." Wartmann's narrative is my favorite, and the inclusion of a longer quote will, I think, make a good case for why:

"Eventually [my lover] Michael and I were forced to move because of what was euphemistically called redevelopment. By the time they started tearing the buildings down around us, we were in a larger apartment, six rooms. We had sanded all the floors and had white walls, antiques and art objects. The redevelopment department sent two social workers to our apartment to try to help us prepare for the move. A lot of street people were sleeping in the hallways. I would just step over them, saying excuse me, and go up to our apartment on the third floor, where we had all these antiques, china and chandeliers, oriental rugs and *objets d'art* and a large German Shepherd.

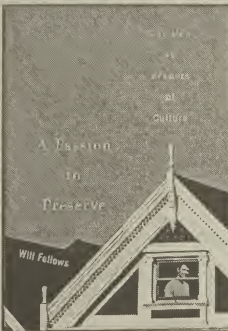
"When the social workers came upstairs for our appointment, I was wearing a black floor-length, *motté* bathrobe, smoking a black, gold-tipped Russian cigarette in a jade cigarette holder, and holding a glass of sherry with a hazelnut in it. We were listening to Boccherini. I said, 'Do come in,' and when they stepped through the door, they practically fell backward, they were so disoriented."

Also captivating are the longer historical summaries that Fellows provides, such as those for Cookville and Mineral Point, two small towns in Wisconsin.

"Though at first it may seem to be at odds with the impulse to preserve," Fellows writes, "a romantic fascination with decay, even destruction, is closely related to an enchantment with restoration. Indeed, without a period of neglect, decline, and perhaps the threat of destruction,

the thrilling work of redemption is not possible."

Interesting observations also come from contributors such as Allan Gurganus, author of *The Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All*: "Nobody who's buying a house built in 1757 thinks that he's getting it all for himself and forever. If you understand history, you realize that you're just the current owner, as they call it in carpentry circles."



Passion author Will Fellows

bels, the shortcoming might be mine if I didn't "see the benefit of restoring an old building." While I am not glued to the TV for *Antiques Roadshow* or the *Home and Garden* channel, I do live in a house well over a century old and wouldn't want it any other way. I will concede, nevertheless, that my lack of passion for *A Passion to Preserve* might be a matter of personal taste.

A glossary of terms might have been helpful for architecture neophytes. Also, the book would have benefited from illustrations. I suspect that the author may not have wanted to shift the focus from gay preservationists to the things they preserve, but it would have added a lot to see photos of the men with their objects of affection.

Still, I'm glad to have read *Passion to Preserve*, which gave me insight into a phenomenon I had long known about but never truly examined. ▼

Michael Wallin

◀ page 43

Wallin then appears onscreen with his former lover Mark. This beautiful young couple is seen rolling in the grass, preparing food, playing with their cat. They are also seen making love in a scene as graphic as any adult film, while the two discuss their feelings about each other in a deeply intimate voiceover. The lovemaking is beautiful, erotic, and so real and personal that it becomes embarrassing at times!

"My goal for the film is for each viewer to be able to see or find a bit of themselves in the film," Wallin says, though he admits that he cringed a bit when his mother saw it.

"She asked for a private screening. Afterwards, she asked me if sex was the only thing in my life that was important to me. That was the subject matter of the film, I told her."

The title film of the DVD collection, *Black Sheep Boy* ('95), was a hit on the film-festival circuit in the '90s, and compared to the works of Kenneth Anger and Jean Genet.

More suggestive than explicit, it came about through Wallin's infatuation with Nick, a beautiful young man he knew at the time. He shot some footage of Nick, who disappeared, so he decided to focus the film on 10 young men, all archetypes of the dark-featured younger males he had come to be drawn to.

"I boldly approached young men in the Castro, at Café Flore,

and introduced myself as a filmmaker. This got easier to do each time! I told them that the film was fully funded, about gay sex, but not pornographic."

He was amazed at how receptive most of the young men were. He did a photo shoot with each, showed them some of his earlier works, and everything came together. The film became a celebration of the fetishism of male youth, many of whom share their own fetishes with the camera. "The challenge was to have the narration connect with the images, to convey the idea and feelings of the film's subject matter."

Though not as graphic as his earlier works, *Black Sheep Boy* remains deeply personal and erotic. Michael Wallin understands how to present true erotic emotions on the screen as few filmmakers have.

The disc is rounded out with *Decodings*, a 15-minute film which makes very poetic use of home movie and newsreel footage from the '40s and '50s.

Currently preparing a new film about his relationship with his straight, fraternal-twin brother, Wallin now works as a therapist, helping people untie the knots that bound their unhappy relationships. A deeply spiritual man, he describes himself as a Bu-Jew. Culturally Jewish, he finds comfort in the teachings of Buddhism. Single, living in a modest, comfortable house near the beach, Wallin said he'll continue his search for sexual and emotional fulfillment through his films. It's a journey he invites us all to participate in. ▼

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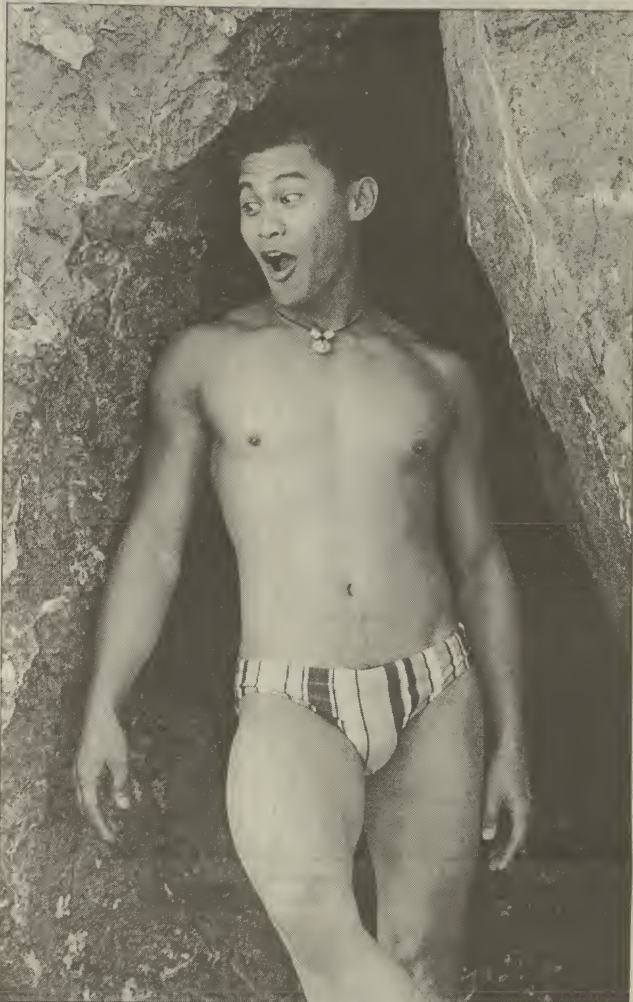
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PARTING GLANCES

Blond Adonis End Up Apr 24 wall Riveting man at wall. Med hair, red sleeveless shirt. Joined friends, dance-floor Me: shoulder dark hair, orange sleeveless. Uncharacteristically became shy, yet smitten. Lets meet. Call for details. Eyes met! ☎ 71192

Bar on Castro Wed. 4/28 10PM You: Asian with friends wearing white blue t-shirt. Me: GWM at bar wearing blue shorts. Did you drive by after and yell good night? You're so cute! ☎ 71100

Philippe at the Ballet May 5 I was on crutches. You were sorry the season was ending. I was sorry you left so abruptly (he's not my boyfriend). I hope you'll call before next year. ☎ 71110

Sensual Pleasure For Seniors I'm a 48 yo WM and I enjoy giving sensual oral pleasures to very mature men. Heavy set/stocky, bearded, kissers, cuddlers are pluses but all welcome. Not into gay scene or lifestyle. ☎ 71112

Oscar Wilde Said A Cynic Knows the price of everything and the value of nothing. Do you know the value of Dante, Boccaccio, Cervantes, Shakespeare? Human nature transcends eras. Care to share some with me? ☎ 71111

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

FF In The Afternoon Mature, muscular man would like to date a buddy for some regular afternoon or evening mutual butt play, weekends too. ☎ 71186

Muscular GWM Seeks Smooth Asian I'm a good guy who's cultured, honest, clean, HIV-. Seeking a muscymtuned Asian to date on a regular basis. I'm also passionate and love great sex. Let's meet. ☎ 71187

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SEEKING ADVENTURE

Opposites Attract Big-dick Italian top looking for in shape Black, Asian, Latino and blue-collar White men. Hopefully on a regular basis. ☎ 71184

Older Male Lkng For Gay Daddie Hello, my name is Joseph, 5'7", 170 lbs., brn hair, blue eyes. Live alone, single...want to be totally naked for the right gay Daddie. ☎ 71106

Nice Ass? If you got one, I want it! GW senior top seeking GW masc/submissive bottom. ☎ 71189



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I Seek A Guy w/Huge Nipples I'm muscular, nice guy, looking for a guy w/huge protruding nipples that needs attention. I will lick, suck and satisfy you. I'm sincere, honest, serious. Pls, no games/flakes. Thanks. ☎ 71191

Effeminate Men LM, 49, 6', 165lbs, moderately hairy. I'm looking for younger effeminate men to give me slow, sensual oral pleasure all over. No pain or S & M. ☎ 71199

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Experienced White Ass Muscular, 5'11", 185#, shaved head, short brown beard, tanned, white buns. Seeks repeated plowing from top into regular fill-ups. Any age/race welcome. ☎ 71105

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Wine Country Living GWM, 50, 5'10", 170 Shv head, work in SF, weekend in wine country. Lkg for someone to enjoy pleasures of both places. D/D free. ☎ 71108

Latin Bear Seeks right guy to teach me to be his bottom. No S & M. Just a guy with patience who'll teach me to take his dick. Open to age, race, shape. ☎ 71113

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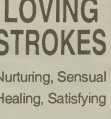
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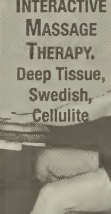
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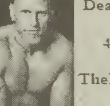
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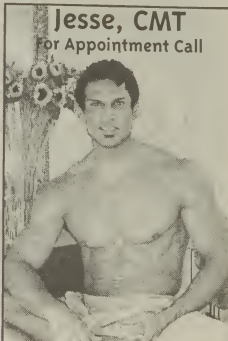
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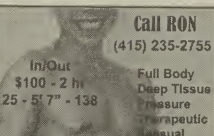
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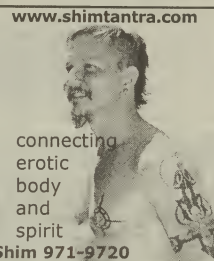
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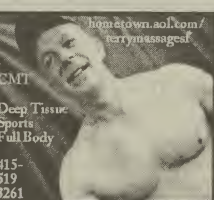
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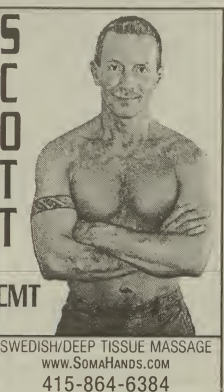
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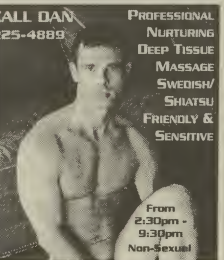
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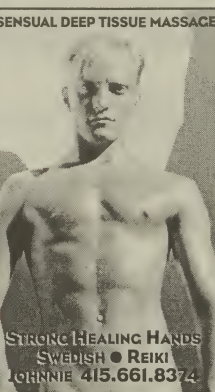
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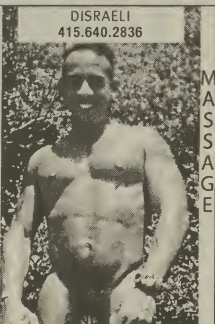
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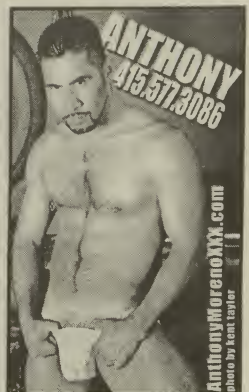
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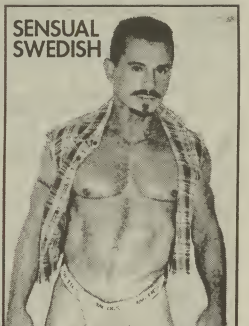
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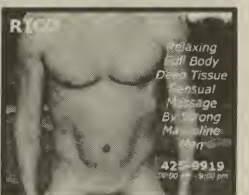
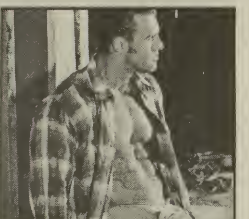
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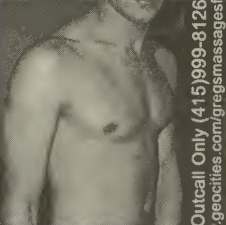



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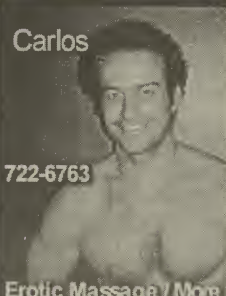


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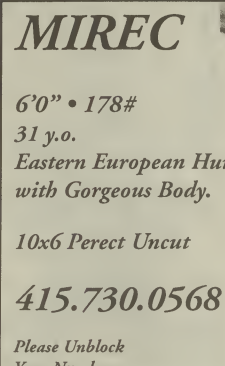


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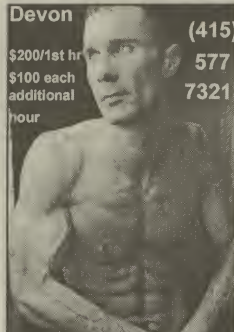
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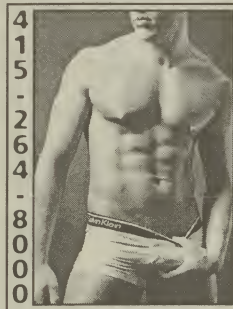
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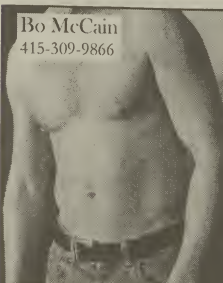
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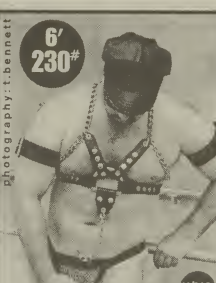
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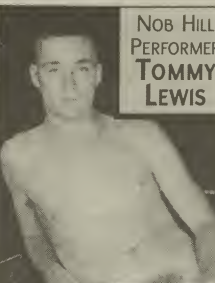
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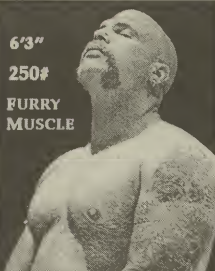
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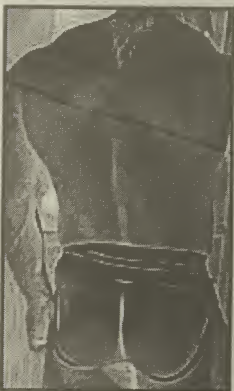
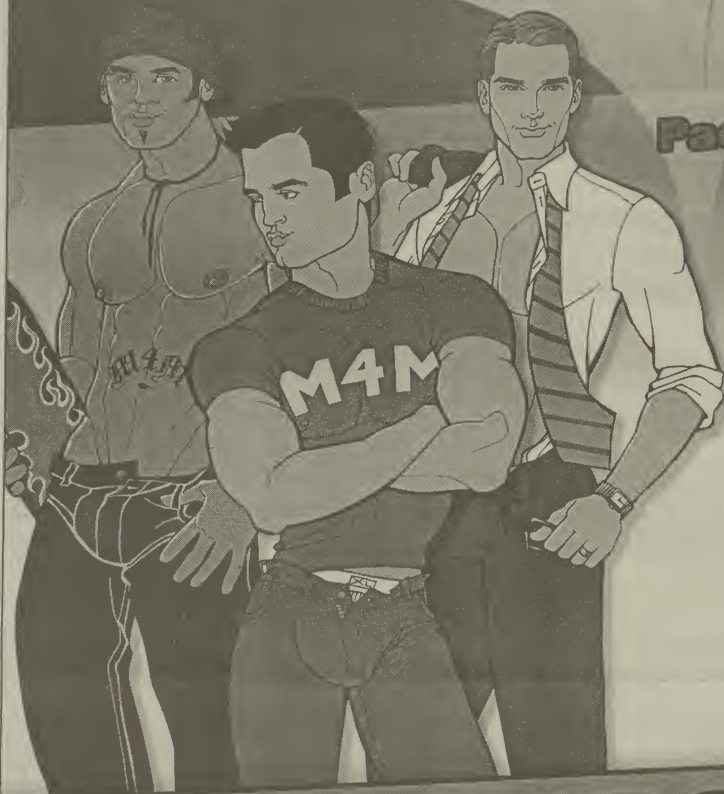
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